THE MOTHER: OR, THE HAPPY DISTRESS. A NOVEL.

Speciosa Miracula! HOR.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
Printed for R. BALDWIN, at the Rose, in Pater-Noster-Row.
M.DCC.LIX.

HARVARD COLLEGE
NOV 23 1927
LIBRARY
Gift of
Prof. C. N. Greenough

THE MOTHER: OR, THE HAPPY DISTRESS.

BOOK III.

I AM here to acquaint my reader, that though, to prevent a great many interruptions, I have kept the whole of this history undivided, yet it took up at least two days. Darking sometimes threw in questions, and his mother was sometimes interrupted, either by necessary avocations, or the tender emotions her recital

occaſioned, and ſometimes ſhe was obliged to repeat what ſhe had told before.

Darking was far from diſcovering any extravagance of joy at his unexpected good fortune. He ſeemed to be quite buried in thought, when his mother finiſhed her relation. Mrs. Manby appeared alarmed at his behaviour, and he frankly confeſſed, that her fortune brought no other increaſe of pleaſure to him, than as it made her happy. 'For my own part, madam, continued he, there is a certain ſtate of life that 'is proportioned to every man's character 'and abilities, and a man renders himſelf 'ridiculous, when he pretends to exceed 'it: I am ſenſible of a thouſand defects of 'education, that at preſent diſqualify me 'from appearing in a ſphere of life, ſuitable to your fortune, ſhould you make 'me maſter of it. The ſecret of being 'your ſon, may be confined to a very few 'intimate friends; nay, I wiſh it were 'intirely concealed till we get to England, 'where I ſhall have an opportunity of 'making thoſe acquiſitions, that may ren-

'der

'der me worthy of my good fortune, when-
'ever you ſhall think proper to declare it.'
Mrs. Manby, at firſt, oppoſed this deſign; for having, as ſhe ſolemnly proteſted, abſolutely determin'd againſt any third marriage, ſhe could have no pleaſure in her fortune, unleſs ſhe ſaw him enjoy it. —
'Unleſs you ſee me ſpend it, replies Dark-
'ing; for if you would have me enjoy it,
'I muſt follow the plan of life I have laid
'down to myſelf.' He then ſupported the ſcheme he had adopted, with a ſolidity and good ſenſe, that equally pleaſed and aſtoniſhed his mother, and ſhe came intirely into his meaſures. Neal, the waterman, was enjoined, under the pain of his ſevere diſpleaſure, not to mention a word of what had paſſed; and Mr. Matthews was the only perſon in the iſland, who was admitted into the ſecret.

Capt. Dotterel continued all this time in the iſland, though his ſhip, commanded by his lieutenant, was on a cruize, and was fully prepoſſeſſed with the notion, that Mrs. Manby would make him maſter of

her perſon and fortune. All the mortifications, which were not a few, ſhe made him ſuffer, could not cure him of his ridiculous vanity. He was weak enough to imagine, however appearances were againſt him, that ſhe never would have admitted him to her houſe, but from a ſecret inclination, and that ſhe only wanted a decent pretext for ſurrendering herſelf to his arms. He had heard of widows having been gained by impudence, and inceſſant importunity. He therefore hired a lodging almoſt oppoſite to her houſe; he watched her out-goings and in-comings, and never miſſed an opportunity of throwing himſelf in her way. In vain ſhe denied herſelf to him, twenty times in a day; he never loſt ſight of the chaſe, and even the name of fool, puppy, and ſcoundrel, made no abatement of his aſſiduities. Darking, in order to purſue his own plan the better, had taken a lodging at ſome diſtance from his mother's houſe; and though he was pretty often there, yet he did not know the perſecution ſhe underwent from his late captain. At laſt, his behaviour became ſo in-

intolerable, that Mrs. Manby was obliged to mention it to her ſon, but under a promiſe, that he ſhould not proceed to any violence, if he could poſſibly avoid it. Darking, in order to keep his word, and yet gratify that extreme hatred he ſtill retained for Dotterel's perſon and principles, was contented with watching his opportunity. One day when the chief coffee-houſe of the place was very full of both ſea and land officers, and Dotterel amongſt others, coming full up to him, in the midſt of the company, who, knowing what had paſſed between them, had their eyes fixt upon both, 'Mr. Dotterel, ſaid Darking, I 'have a meſſage to deliver to you from 'Mrs. Manby, and the more publicly I 'deliver it, ſo much the better. She de'ſires the favour of you never to come 'near her houſe again; and ſays, that if 'you do, ſhe will treat you like a ſcoun'drel, as you are.' 'No meſſage, re'plied Dotterel, can come amiſs to me, 'that comes from Mrs. Manby.' And in ſaying ſo, he ſtrutted out of the coffee-room, leaving the company poſſeſſed of

an infinite contempt for his perſon and courage.

Though Dotterel's cowardice would not ſuffer him to take any notice of the affront offered him by Darking, yet he was, for ſome days, meditating a deep revenge, in which he was greatly aſſiſted by Mr. Scanty the worthy purſer, who had not forgot the drubbing given him by Darking. He happened, at this time, to be ſent on a meſſage from the lieutenant, who commanded Dotterel's ſhip, to the captain, and was to return to the ſhip in a few days. Darking, about the ſame time, not chuſing to be idle any longer aſhore, had fitted out his ſhip, and engaged his ſeamen for another cruize, intending firſt of all to touch upon the iſland of Tobago for the benefit of wooding and watering his veſſel. This reſolution was made known to Dotterel, by means of an idle, drunken ſailor, one of Darking's crew, whom he had purpoſely enveigled into his ſervice, and was to go to his ſhip along with Scanty.

Mrs.

Mrs. Manby all this while was ſettling her affairs, in order to go to England, and was in hopes to be ready to embark by the time her ſon returned from his cruize. She had already converted her moveables into a vaſt ſum of money, for which ſhe tooks bills upon England, and had ſold all her eſtate, excepting one plantation, which brought her in about fifteen hundred pounds a year. Her ſecret had been ſo well kept, that though the whole iſland concluded ſhe was deeply in love with Darking, and that he certainly would carry her off, yet nobody imagined he was her ſon. The night before his departure on his cruize, which was about ten days after Scanty went back to the ſhip, he gave her and ſome ladies and gentlemen of the iſland, an entertainment on board of his veſſel, and next day he ſet ſail. The weather proving to be very unfavourable, almoſt all his officers, and great part of his crew fell ſick, ſo that when he came to Tobago, he was obliged himſelf to head the party, that was to go on ſhore.

Mean while, Dotterel and Scanty had laid a moſt deteſtable plot againſt Darking's life. The government of England having received intelligence of ſome pyrate ſhips, that were plying in thoſe ſeas, had ordered the captains of the king's ſhips, to do all they could to root them out. Scanty and Dotterel laid hold of this circumſtance, and gave the commanding officer, and his crew, an exact deſcription of Darking's ſhip, as being one of the pyrates.

Had the commanding officer liſtened to Scanty's arguments, he would immediately have ſunk Darking's veſſel, as ſoon as it came within ſhot. But being a man of experience, he was contented to bring too the ſhip, and ſending off his long-boat, it immediately return'd with one of her crew on board, with an account that the captain and moſt of the healthy hands, had early that morning gone on ſhore upon the iſland. Upon this information, Scanty repreſented the whole as an impoſture, affirming, upon his own knowledge,

ledge, that captain Darking had long given over all thoughts of the ſea, and had, ſome months paſt, taken his paſſage for England. This account ſtumbled the commanding officer ſo much, that he ordered the ſailor to be clapt in irons, and the ſhip to be ſeized, while a party of marines, commanded by a lieutenant, whom Scanty officiouſly offered to accompany, was ſent on ſhore to bring the captain and his party priſoners on board. This lieutenant had the misfortune to be pretty deeply indebted to the purſer, and conſequently was a good deal under his direction. As he never had ſeen Darking, Scanty told him, that pyrates being deſperate villains, their beſt way would be, as ſoon as they came up with them, to make ſure of their captain, by ſhooting him dead, and then, ſaid he, his men will ſurrender without any difficulty. The lieutenant readily coming into this propoſal, the party had the ſame orders; and about three hours after they landed, they ſaw Darking's men buſied in filling their caſks, and felling their wood, and himſelf walk-

ing about giving directions. It happen'd very luckily for Darking, that one of thoſe moſt dreadful ſhowers that are common in the Weſt Indies, fell at this very time, and rendered the fire-arms of the marines uſeleſs, ſo that upon the word being given to fire, only three of them went off, and that without doing any execution, but wounding a ſailor, who ſtood by Darking's ſide. The report of the fire-arms, however, alarmed him and his party, who immediately ran to their arms, imagining they were ſurprized by the French; but they were ſoon undeceived, for advancing to the ſkirts of the wood, from whence the ſhot came, they found themſelves ſurrounded by thirty ſoldiers in red coats, with bayonets ſcrew'd upon their muſkets. Darking would willingly have ſurrendered himſelf priſoner, but the noiſe and fury of the enemy prevented his being heard, and all of them pointing their pieces at him, his men, who loved him more than their own lives, inſtantly advanced to defend him. Darking finding that all his efforts to obtain quarter were

in-

ineffectual, and seeing Scanty among the number of his aggressors, no longer doubted they aimed at his life only, and resolved to sell it as dear as he could; but the match was unequal, because Darking's party consisted of no more than twenty sailors, and the marines were much better armed. Darking's men, however, emboldened by the intrepidity of their captain, who, with his own hand, killed three of the most forward of the enemy, performed wonders, while the marines, exasperated by their loss, and the persuasions of their officer and Scanty, seemed equally determined to avail themselves of their superiority; and Darking's men, who had been fatigued by their preceding toils, must have been cut to pieces, notwithstanding the valour of their leader, had they not received a sudden relief, which arrived in the following manner.

One of the two sailors, whom Darking had left to guard the water casks upon the shore, having heard the report of muskets, had ventured to approach the wood, and

ſaw the beginning of the engagement; but, before he could get up to take a ſhare in it, he found himſelf ſeized by a white man and three negroe ſlaves, and the former, in very good Engliſh, demanded of him the occaſion of the fray. The poor fellow, inſtantly falling upon his knees, begged the gentleman, for God Almighty's ſake, to let him go to the aſſiſtance of his captain, captain Darking, commander of the Foundling privateer, the worthieſt, the moſt *generouſeſt*, and the moſt *braveſt*, man in the world, who was a going to be *aſſinated* by a parcel of rogues in red coats. There was ſomewhat in the ſailor's manner ſo moving and honeſt, that the gentleman, after a few other queſtions, which perfectly ſatisfied him of his ſincerity, not only ſuffered him to proceed, but went along with him, attended by his three negroes, and all of them well armed.

They arrived juſt at the time when Darking's ſailors were beginning to make a faint reſiſtance; and while Darking himſelf was engaged with the lieutenant, Scan-

ty,

ty, and the marine ſerjeant, the gentleman, by an impulſe, natural to brave minds, ran to Darking's aſſiſtance; and the ſerjeant and Scanty being laid ſprawling on the ground, the lieutenant retreated in great haſte to his main body. The ſight of their captain and his five aſſiſtants gave Darking's men freſh ſpirits; and the marines were ply'd ſo warmly, both in front and rear, that collecting themſelves in a body, they ſtood upon the defenſive, and gave the unknown gentleman an opportunity of propoſing a parly, which being agreed to readily, upon both ſides, the two parties ſeparated to ſome diſtance, and he, with his three negroes, took up the middle ſpace. He then advanced to the lieutenant of the marines, who informed him of his order, and returning to Darking, who was dangerouſly wounded in the ſkirmiſh, he ſhowed the gentleman his papers, which convinced the latter that there had been ſome miſtake in the lieutenant's orders. The treaty having proceeded thus far, Darking and the lieutenant, at the gentleman's earneſt requeſt,

had

had an interview, and the lieutenant began to ſuſpect that he had been impoſed upon.

A ceſſation of arms was ſoon agreed on, and each party was to take care of their dead and wounded. Scanty was of the laſt number, but perceiving himſelf paſt all recovery, he declared before the lieutenant and his marines, and the unknown gentleman, the whole of the treachery that had been concerted between himſelf and Dotterel.

Of the marines, ten were killed, and fifteen wounded, and ſix of Darking's men were killed, and twelve wounded. The dead were buried, and the wounded were taken care of, as well as their preſent circumſtances would admit of, there being no ſurgeon upon the iſland. Darking's wounds, however, continued to bleed ſo faſt, that his friends began to deſpair of his life, when one of his unknown deliverers, a negro, running into the woods, returned with an herb, which he firſt chewed, and then apply'd it to the moſt dangerous of the wounds. This application immediately

ſtopped

ſtopped the blood, but the patient continued ſo weak, that it was judged impoſſible to carry him back to his ſhip with life. The unknown gentleman, however, applying to the ſame ſlave who had brought the ſtyptic, the latter, after examining his wounds narrowly, told them, that if he was left to his management, he would anſwer with his life, for his recovery in two or three weeks at fartheſt. The whole company appeared to be overjoyed at this aſſurance, and the unknown gentleman requeſted them to leave their captain to his care; this they did, with ſome reluctance, and both they and the marines returned to their boats in great friendſhip, leaving only a handy fellow of a ſailor to attend Darking. But, before they departed, it was agreed upon that they ſhould ſend, every day, to a part of the iſland, where the meſſenger was to meet with the unknown gentleman, or one of his ſlaves, who were to give him an account of their captain's health.

The reader is here to underſtand that Tobago is one of thoſe Caribbee iſlands, that

go by the name of neutral; becauſe, tho' both the French and Engliſh pretend to be the rightful proprietors of it; yet, by a tacit conſent, it is in common to both, and yet the property of neither, tho', by nature, it is one of the moſt delightful ſpots in the univerſe. Both parties being withdrawn, the negroes cut down ſome bows, of which they made a very convenient hurdle, and having placed Darking upon it, with great tenderneſs, they carried him to their maſter's habitation, which lay about three quarters of a mile from the field of action.

This habitation conſiſted of four or five pretty large ground rooms, which were all of them furniſhed with an elegant ſimplicity, correſponding to the mind and converſation of its owner. But the ſituation, for beauty, exceeded all that ever was pictured in romance. A hanging wood behind, a fine lawn before, border'd with a winding river, ſhady bowers, cool grottos, and enamelled meads, are the common properties of a delightful ſituation; but, beſides all theſe beauties, in greater profuſion than ever

ever nature beſtowed before, there was ſpread over the whole, ſuch a mixture of the awful and the chearful, ſuch blending of art with nature, ſuch fields for labour and ſuch receſſes for eaſe, that the very view of it kept the mind in that even poiſe which fits it for every duty, either contemplative or active. It was not till after four days keeping his bed, by the negroe's directions, and the application of ſeveral baths and fomentations of herbs, that Darking ventured to ſtir abroad; but as ſoon as he beheld the charms of this habitation, he ſeemed to forget that there was any other place in the world. Mr. Leſtrange, for by that name his landlord and deliverer went, perceiving his ſurprize, told him that he had purchaſed the place of a French gentleman, who had begun the improvements he ſaw, and had ſince gone to reſide at Martinico; but, that he, with the aſſiſtance of a dozen negroes he kept, had given it moſt of the improvements he ſo greatly admired. Darking expreſt ſome difficulty in believing that ſo many beauties ſhould be the product of only thirteen mens labour; but Leſtrange ſoon ſatiſ-

ſatisfied him. 'When I purchaſed this 'houſe, ſaid he, I purchaſed it merely for 'the ſituation. The misfortunes I had 'met with in life determined me to ſoli-'tude, but not to that kind of ſolitude 'that preys upon the ſpirits, or robs us of 'our nature. There is a ſociety which a 'man, however remote he is from the 'world, may cultivate with himſelf, and 'that is the ſociety I have delighted in for 'theſe laſt ten years. I gave myſelf up to 'the ſtudy of nature, and here I found a 'boundleſs field to improve in. As to 'the beauties you think you ſee here, be-'lieve me, it was not ſo difficult to pro-'duce them, as you ſeem to imagine. I 'followed my own rule, the ſtudy of na-'ture, and found, that, with a very ſmall 'aſſiſtance from art, ſhe can do wonders. 'I ſtrove to humour her in all her appear-'ances, and, by ſo doing, I always found 'her improved. It is the madneſs of man-'kind that attempts to force her. There 'is a regularity in which nature delights, 'but it is not that regularity which is 'produced by digging and levelling, by

'filling

'filling up and cutting down, by the line 'and the compaſs; in ſhort, it is not the 'uniformity of the parts, but the reſult of 'the whole, which conſtitutes that regu-'larity in which nature delights, and which 'forms the beauty of all her works.'

Darking, whoſe taſte had been always confined to the queint figures and correſponding members ſo conſpicuous in our European gardens and plantations, did not at firſt reliſh this doctrine, but Mr. Leſtrange ſoon made him a proſelyte, by many examples that fell immediately under their own eyes. 'Though I abhor, ſaid he, 'a cloud of words, yet all the elegance of 'life is owing to a juſt diſtinction of ideas, 'that, however we may poſſeſs them our-'ſelves, cannot be communicated to others 'without the uſe of words, and communi-'cation is the link that binds ſociety toge-'ther. This diſtinction of ideas proves the 'delicacy of underſtanding, as the blend-'ing them does its groſſneſs. The ſame in-'attention that miſtakes uniformity for re-'gularity, loſes beauty in ornament, and

'ſinks

'ſinks variety in confuſion. With ſuch, 'there is no elegance but in expence, and 'no eaſe but in extravagance. But nature 'hates extremes, and is pleaſed only with 'the graceful.' 'I admit, replies Darking, all you ſay, but I ſhould be glad of 'a rule by which this graceful may be obtained.' 'Were it ſubject to a rule, ſays 'the other, it would ceaſe to be graceful. 'The graceful is only known by its effect; 'fewer minds are ſuſceptible of it than of 'beauty, for the bound that divides them 'is ſo delicate, that it cannot be defined. 'It is true, every object that is graceful, is 'beautiful; but then, every object that is 'beautiful, is not graceful; and the ſource 'of that diſtinction lies ſo hid, that even 'the mind who poſſeſſes it, is unconſcious 'of it, and judges without being able to 'account for the principles upon which it 'is pleaſed. But, concludes Leſtrange, 'this is a ſubject, that were we to diſcuſs, 'it would lead us into the range of all the 'liberal arts, and even into the modes of 'common life and behaviour. Another 'time we will diſcuſs it more at leiſure.'

Though

Though Darking had never dipp'd very far into the ſtudy of intellectual objects, or ſpeculative reaſoning, yet he felt, within his own mind, the truth of all that Leſtrange ſaid, and wondered he never had diſcovered it before. He would fain have continued his converſation, but perceiving his amiable hoſt averſe to it, at that time, they walked homewards, where they found a repaſt prepared for them, that would have equally pleaſed an Ariſtippus and a Socrates. Every thing was exquiſite, but nothing ſuperfluous; and the obliging, yet edifying converſation of the landlord, made Darking almoſt wiſh to paſs all his life in that delightful retirement. He was a thouſand times tempted to aſk of Mr. Leſtrange the ſtory of his life, but he thought he ſaw him avoid all particulars of that kind. He underſtood, in general, however, that he was, by birth, an Engliſhman, but had ſo great reaſon for being out of love with the world, after ſeeing a great part of it, that he had choſen this retreat, where he had lived unmoleſted for the laſt twelve years of his life. That his tranquillity was partly

owing to his name, and his ſpeaking the French and Spaniſh equally well with the Engliſh; but that, of late, he began to be under apprehenſions from the pyrates, ſome of whom had been upon the iſland, and had wandered up almoſt as far as his habitation; but, that he had ſome reaſon for believing they had not ſeen it, as it lay ſo covered with his plantation. He added, that even thoſe apprehenſions broke into his ſcheme of retir'd tranquillity, and that he had ſome thoughts of increaſing his family, by purchaſing a few more negroes, and engaging a faithful white ſervant upon ſome of the Engliſh or French iſlands.

Darking had now been ten days upon the iſland, and his landlord's company had rendered them the moſt delightful he had ever known. He had daily accounts from his ſhip, which lay very ſafe; and he underſtood that the commanding officer of the man of war, with the lieutenant of the marines, intended, as ſoon as they landed, to make an affidavit of all they knew, and to have it confirmed by all the marines that were

were in the action. He underſtood farther, that Scanty being, with great difficulty, carried alive on board, had repeated all he knew, in preſence of the lieutenant who commanded the ſhip, and that the clerk of the ſhip had drawn up a full narrative of the whole, which Scanty had juſt ſtrength enough to ſign, before he expired of his wounds.

Though all this was extremely agreeable to Darking, yet it was with regret he reflected that he had no pretext for ſtaying longer with Leſtrange, and he was now ſo enamoured with his company, that he could have given up all the future proſpects of his life, to have paſt the reſt of his days as he had done the ten preceding. He went even ſo far as to hint this to his hoſt, who was far from encouraging him in his fondneſs for retirement, unleſs he had very particular reaſons for being tired of the world. Darking hinted, that, ſo far from that, he believed himſelf to be now in a ſituation in which he could command every thing that can make life deſirable. 'But your 'converſation, continued he, convinces me

'that,

'that, though I was not born to a ſhilling,
'and though my late good fortune is ſuch
'as I could not have had the impudence to
'have wiſhed for, yet I am unhappy by
'having been confined to a ſphere of life
'where I have had no opportunity of mak-
'ing thoſe acquirements of knowledge that
'appear ſo amiable in you, and alone give
'true happineſs.

'You ſpeak, replied the other with a
'ſigh, like a young man indeed. Know-
'ledge, ſo far from being an ingredient of
'happineſs, often deſtroys it. I may as
'well repine that my education did not
'form me for the ſea or for a military
'life, as you, that yours has not form-
'ed you for the abſtracted ſciences. I
'could give you fifty arguments to prove
'that your lot in life is happier than mine,
'for one that you can bring to the contrary.
'It is not the ſtudy, but the practice of
'wiſdom, that makes a man happy, and the
'more active, the more extended that prac-
'tice is, the better the ends of true happi-
'neſs are anſwered. Nothing but the

'deepeſt

'deepeſt diſguſt with life could make me
'loſe all its nobleſt purpoſes, by retiring to
'this ſtate of indolence where I live only
'for myſelf. I condemn myſelf while I
'am doing it. It is not the life true reli-
'gion recommends, or true philoſophy prac-
'tiſed, when Socrates, the greateſt man
'that ever was unenlightned by revelation,
'went through the ſevereſt military duties
'for his country; and his diſciples were
'generals and patriots, as well as philoſo-
'phers, or rather, becauſe they were phi-
'loſophers. Neither true religion nor true
'philoſophy was confined to cells, to
'ſhades, to colleges, ſchools, and academies,
'till the one began to be infected with ſu-
'perſtition, and the other degenerated into
'ſophiſtry. No man with health and abili-
'ties has a right to indulge himſelf in re-
'tirement, while his country demands his
'ſervice. The ſtudy, even of the fine arts,
'ought to be denied to the man who has
'not earned that indulgence by fulfilling
'the duties of that ſphere of life where
'providence has placed him.

'But, replyed Darking, if a man ſhould be 'removed from a ſphere of life, to which, not 'choice, but neceſſity or accident, directed 'him into another more ſuitable to his ge-'nious and inclination, may he not, with 'a very good grace, quit the one for the 'other?' 'Undoubtedly, replied Le-'ſtrange, if the latter gives him equal, or 'greater opportunities of ſerving his coun-'try: I ſay, his country! for in that 'word, all relations of life are compre-'hended. You, for inſtance, perhaps, by 'a happy turn of providence, have it now 'in your power, to be more uſeful in life, 'than if you actually went in perſon to ſea. 'Then, you ought to embrace the oppor-'tunity, that you may be entitled to perſue 'thoſe ſtudies, which, at preſent, you think 'form the chief happineſs of life.' Le-ſtrange then proceeded to confirm all he had laid down, by a variety of reaſoning and examples; and he won Darking ſo tho-roughly over to his ſyſtem, that the latter could not think of their parting without doing himſelf the greateſt violence. After great

great perſuaſion, Mr. Leſtrange, who began to have an equal friendſhip for him, conſented to go with Darking to Jamaica, provided the latter would commit the care of his ſhip to his lieutenant, for a cruize of a fortnight, which was the time Mr. Leſtrange required for ſettling his affairs, ſo as to be able to undertake the voyage. But, before he agreed to this ſcheme, he expreſly ſtipulated that he ſhould keep only as much company as he pleaſed, that he ſhould live in as retired a manner in Jamaica as he did in Tobago; and Darking, of his own accord, promiſed, that, as ſoon as he had engaged his white ſervant, and purchaſed his negroes, his own ſhip ſhould carry him back to Tobago.

The fourteen days Darking remained there, were ſpent by him in ſo delightful a manner, that he ſeemed to have acquired a new, and a better, being. 'My dear Dark-'ing,' ſaid Mr. Leſtrange, one morning, as they were walking up the hill which lay behind his habitation, and commanded an extenſive proſpect of the ſea, 'you

'have done more than man ever could do, 'to reconcile me to mankind; and I am 'now going to give you the laſt proof of 'my friendſhip, and the confidence I re-'poſe in you.' In ſaying ſo, he deſired Darking to follow him, and he ſtruck into the thickeſt part of the wood, that covered the hill. There they found a ſmall plain, about ſixty foot broad, formed in the ſhape of an amphitheatre, and in the deepeſt part of the ſweep, which happened to be the very point of contact with the hill, ſtood an immenſe large tree, which proved to be hollow, but the hollowneſs was ſo artfully concealed, that Darking was ſurpriſed when he ſaw Leſtrange open a door, which was coloured over as if it had been part of the tree, into which both of them entered. The oppoſite part of the tree being open, they went quite through it into another door which opened into a very handſome ſquare room, dug into the hill, and receiving its light from two windows above, the whole being ſo well concealed by a great profuſion of flowers, ſhrubs, and trees, that it was impoſſible for the eye to diſcover the contents. The room itſelf was about fifteen feet ſquare, and ten

in

in height, and contained ſome pictures, and buſts of immenſe value, with two mahogany caſes, ſecured with glaſs doors and full of books. 'This room, ſaid Leſtrange, I 'call, to myſelf, my ſenſorium, for I never 'retire hither but that I may give ſcope to 'meditation, and collect all my faculties of 'reaſoning and reflection. It is a ſecret to 'all the world but to you, myſelf, and one 'other friend, whom I will entruſt with 'the management of my concerns in my 'abſence. I helped to build it with my 'own hands, by the aſſiſtance of two faith-'ful negroes, and an ingenious carpenter, 'whom I engaged at Barbadoes to live 'with me here, and all three are now 'dead.'

Darking was not more overjoyed at this diſcovery, than he was mortifyed to find that there were very few Engliſh, and no French books, in this little library, being chiefly compoſed of Greek and Latin philoſophers, poets, and hiſtorians, which laſt language he underſtood, but not to read it ſo well as he could Engliſh or French.

Leſtrange having ordered every thing for his ſpeedy departure, went on board with Darking, and they arrived at Jamaica without any accident, but found that Dotterel had ſet ſail, on his return to England, two days before; and that neither the lieutenant of marines, nor any of his men had been ſuffered to come on ſhore. Their adventure, however, took air while the ſhip was victualling, but as there was no proof of the fact but the declaration of a dead man, neither the governor nor the admiral thought it ſafe to detain Dotterel, as the orders for his return were peremptory, and could admit of no delay.

Ever ſince Darking and Leſtrange had been acquainted, tho' great demonſtrations of friendſhip, and that too, perfectly ſincere on both ſides, had paſſed between them, yet Darking had never ventured to preſs to know the ſtory of his generous hoſt, farther than I have already mentioned. He could eaſily ſee he was oppreſſed with a deep melancholy, though it did not prevent his being polite and communicative; and as

ſoon

ſoon as they arrived at Jamaica, he requeſted of Darking to go on ſhore and provide him with a retired lodging, while he was to wait for his return in the ſhip. Darking being now uſed to look upon his friend as his oracle, durſt not diſpute his will, and promiſing to obey his orders, he took his leave. The firſt place he landed at was near his mother's houſe, who received him with double joy as ſhe had been fully informed of his danger. She told him that Dotterel had, with the deepeſt aſſeverations, denied all that Scanty had confeſſed; calling it the effect of a diſtempered brain; and that he maintained the attack upon him, was meerly accidental, occaſioned entirely by a miſtake, which might have happened to any man, conſidering the probability from circumſtances, that Darking's men were pirates. 'Upon the whole, continued ſhe, there is 'as yet, no legal evidence againſt Dotterel, 'though he certainly is guilty, but if any 'ſhould come out, he can be tried here-'after, in England, either by a court-mar-'tial, or by the common law.'

After ſome more talk upon the ſame ſubject, Darking gave his mother a particular account of his obligations to Leſtrange; 'He not only, ſaid he, ſaved 'my life, but has given me what I hold 'dearer than life, a knowledge of my-'ſelf, and my own inſignificancy. He 'has taught me how I ſhall be worthy of 'being your ſon, and how I ſhall be grate-'ful to providence. In ſhort, Madam, I 'have found in him, not only a friend 'but a father.

Though Mrs. Manby had heard of the brave, generous part Leſtrange had acted by her ſon, and therefore was not ſurpriſ-at the warmth with which he expreſſed himſelf, yet when he came to open to her the particulars of his entertainment, and of the eſteem they had formed for each other, the ſoul of that worthy woman glowed to become a third in their friendſhip. Her ſentiments ſpoke themſelves in her very eyes. 'Ah! cried ſhe, why does 'providence debar me from the pleaſure 'of ſeeing that amiable ſtranger, of thank-

'ing

'ing him for reſtoring me my ſon, and 'with mingling in the tranſports of a 'friendſhip ſo virtuous, ſo diſintereſted 'and exalted?' 'Alas! madam, replied 'Darking, he is now on board my ſhip, 'and not a hundred yards from your 'houſe.'—— 'Then, why, interrupts ſhe, 'do I delay to throw myſelf at the feet of 'this dear, this generous, benefactor, who 'has given me back more than my life; 'let me break through thoſe idle forms that 'only fetter vulgar, narrow minds.'—— 'Well done, madam, ſays Darking, with 'a ſmile, upon my ſoul I believe you 'would top it upon Drury-Lane ſtage, but 'I wiſh you had heard me out before you 'had given vent to your rapture. For you 'you muſt know that this ſame friend of 'mine, whom you and I cannot praiſe too 'much, has ſome ſingularities about him 'that I am afraid will prevent your grati-'fying your paſſion, for giving him in 'perſon thoſe marks of gratitude, you ex-'preſs ſo affectionately and ſo feelingly.' ——He then proceeded to give her an account of the deep melencholy that ſeemed

to prey upon his mind, and of the orders he had given for providing him a lodging. 'He ſhall lodge, ſays Mrs. Manby, in 'my houſe; I have an apartment will ſuit 'the ſtate of his mind, and he will for-'give, if he ever ſhould diſcover it, a de-'ceit, that is owing only to gratitude and 'friendſhip.'

Though this propoſal greatly flattered Darking's wiſhes, yet he had ſo reverential a regard for the commands of his friend, that it was ſometime before he could be brought to comply with it, and not till after he had made his mother promiſe not to come into his friend's company, unleſs he ſhould deſire it, and not to behave otherwiſe, than as any other miſtreſs of a lodging, or boarding houſe, would behave to a good lodger or boarder. This being agreed upon, Darking diſpatched ſome neceſſary buſineſs, and early next morning he returned to his freind, as he had promiſed. He was grieved to find he was out of order, and never having been before upon the iſland, he was afraid his

diſorder might be the yellow fever, which there proves ſo fatal to ſtrangers. Darking told him, he had executed his orders, he hoped to his ſatisfaction, and preſſed him to go on ſhore without delay, for the greater conveniency of receiving advice.

Leſtrange agreed to this propoſal, and, as he was well enough to walk, he and Darking were immediately carried aſhore, and the latter conducted him to his mother's houſe, where they found the apartment ready. They had ſcarcely entered it, before they were alarmed with a loud ſhriek, which was followed by a ſcream, and Mrs. Pinford, immediately after ruſhing into the room, begged of Mr. Darking for God Almighty's ſake, to come to her miſtreſs, who, ſhe believed, was expiring. Darking, upon this, haſtily ran into his mother's room, where he found her juſt recovering from a fit, but ſo faint, that ſhe was unable to ſpeak, while the paleneſs of her face, and the wildneſs of her looks, plainly ſhew'd her to have been under dreadful agitation. All he could learn was from Mrs. Pinford, who

told him, that her lady having a curioſity to ſee the ſtrange gentleman, had ſtepp'd to the window over the entry, and that as ſoon as ſhe ſaw him enter the court, ſhe found herſelf diſordered, and retired to her own room, where ſhe fell into the condition he ſaw her in at preſent. Darking ordered every thing to be applied, that could do his mother ſervice; and at laſt, ſhe recover'd herſelf well enough to be able to ſit up in the bed. By this time, ſome of the ſervants had run for a ſurgeon, an apothecary, and a phyſician to their miſtreſs, but ſhe ſoon recovered well enough, to countermand them all, and ſhe ordered herſelf to be left in the room with her ſon.

'Alas Tom, ſaid ſhe, when they were 'by themſelves, thou little knoweſt how 'the ſight of this ſtranger haſt diſtreſt me. 'But be not ſurprized, it was a ſudden 'qualm, which was violent, becauſe it was 'unexpected; for, I thank God, I have 'no reaſon to be alarmed.' It is impoſſible to paint the various turns of thought that were viſible upon Darking's countenance,

tenance, while his mother was pronouncing theſe words, which ſhe finiſhed with a kind of half ſmile; a circumſtance he could not reconcile in his mind, with the violent agony ſhe had recovered from. He preſſed her to unriddle the myſtery; and with little more ceremony, ſhe told him, 'that her diſorder had proceeded 'from the ſurprize ſhe was under, in ſeeing 'in the perſon of his new friend, the perſon 'of her former lover, young Mr. Mor-'gan, the man, to whoſe imprudence, ſhe 'owed ſo many misfortunes, that the ſud-'den remembrance of them, had almoſt 'coſt her her life.'

This diſcovery, far from diſconcerting, ſeemed at firſt to overjoy, Darking. But it was not long before ſhe appeared ſunk in thought; and he very ſeriouſly aſked his mother, how ſhe would have him behave towards his friend. She left the conduct intirely to himſelf. 'But for my 'part, added ſhe, though I have nothing 'to accuſe the gentleman of, but an in-'diſcretion, which proceeded from love,

'yet

'yet I am not quite ſure whither I can bear 'the ſhock of being in his company, but I 'will leave the whole to your management.' Darking perceiving, that his mother's ſpirits were quite re-eſtabliſhed, return'd to his friend, whom he found with a phyſitian attending him, and to his great ſorrow, he underſtood, that his diſorder, was the moſt dangerous kind of yellow fever.

But the ſkill of the phyſician would have been ineffectual for ſaving the patient, had not Mrs. Manby been poſſeſſed of a particular remedy, which was a ſecret, but had done wonders in the caſe of the yellow fever. She did not, however, pretend to adminiſter it, till the phyſicians had given him over, and then ſhe ſent it to her gueſt, by the hands of her ſon. The operation was ſo quick and ſalutary, that in three weeks he was quite reſtored to his ſtrength, and expreſſed a violent deſire to return his thanks in perſon to his landlady, who had in a manner brought him to life. Darking undertook to do this next morning, but inſiſted on his dining with him that day, which Leſtrange conply'd with.

When

When dinner was over, they entered into a tête a tête converſation, which Darking managed ſo artfully, that it inſenſibly fell upon their friends in England. But he found the other ſo ſhy of mentioning any particulars relating to himſelf, that he was obliged to be a little more open, and as it were, to force from him, what he wanted to learn. For calling for his toaſt, he bluntly aſked Leſtrange, whether he ever had been in love. He anſwered at firſt, only with a deep ſigh, which gave Darking a handle for rallying him pretty freely. The other heard him with a ſilent diſlike, and at laſt, told him plainly, that, for the firſt time, he was weary of his converſation. 'Nay, 'ſays Darking, I did not bring the ſub-'ject in, but that you might have a proof 'of that unreſerved confidence, which 'yourſelf has taught me to be the baſis 'of all friendſhip.' 'But, replies the 'other, if confidence is the baſis, curio-'ſity is the bane, of friendſhip, and there 'may be ſecrets too ſacred even for friend-'ſhip.' 'Theſe, replies Darking, are ſe-

'crets

'crets I am a ſtranger to.' 'I wiſh I were 'ſo likewiſe, ſays the other. But you 'miſtake me, if you think I am for re-'ſerving any thing from a friend; but 'theſe ſecrets, that, if known, would be 'equally painful to both parties, without 'being of benefit to either. — Yes, my 'dear Darking, the remembrance of what 'you have brought to my mind, gives 'me at this time inexpreſſible torture, 'and did you know the ſtory, it muſt 'afflict you likewiſe, if you are my friend. 'You may then judge what pain the re-'cital of it would give me.' 'But, re-'joins Darking, ſuppoſing we were to 'enter into no particulars; may not one 'friend conſult the experience of another, 'upon ſo general a topic as that of love? 'I have no experience of it, and the queſ-'tion I aſk'd you, was not through cu-'rioſity, but for inſtruction.'

'Yes, replied the other, I have been 'in love, and the remembrance of it 'forms all the bitterneſs of my life, five 'and twenty years abſence has only ad-

'ded,

'ded to the pangs I ſuffer.' — 'What! 'interrupts Darking, can love laſt during 'five and twenty years abſence from its 'object?' Yes, replied Leſtrange, eſpe-'cially when one carries within his own 'breaſt a ſting, that is perpetually quick-'ning the memory by ſorrowful reflec-'tion.' But, ſays Darking, is the object 'ſtill alive? I could crawl to the extremi-'ties of the earth, replied the other, to 'know that.'

Darking was now maſter of the chief point he wanted to know, which was, that his mother was ſtill dear to his friend. 'I will not preſs you farther, reſumed he, 'but, to ſay the truth, the reaſon why I 'introduced the ſubject, was to take your 'opinion upon a very delicate affair, which 'hath happened in our own family, and 'I beg you will give me your atten-'tion. My mother, you muſt know was 'ruin'd by the imprudence of her lover, 'and though he was intentionally inno-'cent — but hold — when I ſay ruined, 'I do not mean that ruin, which is at-

'tended

'tended by the loſs of virtue or honour.' '—— Then what do you mean,' cries the other, 'with the moſt terrible agitation, 'you mean to tell me, that there is as 'great a villain, and as great a wretch in 'the world, as myſelf.' 'I mean, inter-'rupts Darking, to tell you, that I have 'found out that this man is now alive, 'and I want your opinion, how I ſhall 'behave to him when I meet him.' In ſpeaking theſe words, he fixed his eyes earneſtly on his friend, who remained mute, and in a poſture of the utmoſt dejection. It was with difficulty that at laſt he told him, 'the caſe was too intereſting for him 'to proceed farther in the converſation.' 'Intereſting for you, ſays Darking, do you 'know Mr. Morgan then, for that was 'the name of my mother's lover?' 'Ah, 'your mother's name, ſays the other, is 'Cranwell; O God, thou haſt brought 'me to the criſis of my fate!' While he was ſpeaking theſe words, Darking was obliged to run, and to ſupport him from falling off his ſeat; a cold ſweat over ſpread his brow, and he ſeiz'd Darking's hand

with

with an earneſtneſs next to a convulſion. 'My mother's lives, ſaid Darking, haſtily, '(alarmed for his friend) and forgives you! 'you are now in her houſe, and ſhe knows it.'

I ſhall forbear to attempt any deſcription of the amazement, the tranſport and the trepidation that ſucceded one another in Leſtrange upon this ſpeech. It is ſufficient to ſay, that he became a mortifying example of human inſignificancy when under the power of violent paſſions. For that ſame Leſtrange, brave, ſedate, penetrating, wiſe, and learned as he was, at once loſt all his courage, temper, reflection, and philoſophy. At firſt ſurpriſe, hope, fear, and joy, pulling at his ſenſes different ways, he remained mute and inſenſible, and the joy that his friend's words gave him was ſo ſudden, that inſtead of ſettling his diſorder, it overpowered his brain; and for ſome minutes he was ſo totally abandoned by even conſciouſneſs, that he became a mere changeling. A childiſh wimper and an ideot laugh broke from him by turns; his eyes and features loſt all their meaning, and

every

every movement was expreſſive of folly. Some words of extaſy dropt from his tongue, but without his ſeeming to be ſenſible of what he was ſaying. Darking was ſo aſtoniſhed at this phenomenon, that, folding his hands, and gazing upon his friend, in a poſture of deep contemplation, 'What, 'ſaid he, is man, and what is he proud of.' In ſhort, the ſhock was ſo violent, that Darking, afraid either to leave his friend, or to ſuffer him to continue longer without aſſiſtance, was about to have rung the bell in the room, when he ſaw his features gradually recover their tone, and his eyes their ſenſibility, while the firſt uſe he made of his tongue was to thank heaven, that had reſtored him from a ſtate that was worſe than death, and then to aſk whether he could be permitted to throw himſelf at the feet of the woman he had injured paſt all poſſibility of reparation. Darking told him that his mother would be extremely glad to ſee him, provided he thought himſelf ſo well recovered as to bear the interview without riſking a relapſe. The other replied he believed the worſt was over, and he was

ſure

ſure there was no danger. 'Had my 'regard for your mother, added he, pro-'ceeded from love for her perſon alone, 'perhaps, I ſhould long, e'er now, amidſt 'the vaſt variety of ſcenes I have under-'gone, have ſoftened the remembrance of 'her by other objects; nay, founded as it 'was upon eſteem as well as love, had no 'other motive interpoſed, by this time I 'might have born the ſurpriſe, of hearing I 'was ſo near her, with leſs agony than 'what you have ſeen me ſuffer, but a 'thouſand circumſtances of gratitude, re-'morſe, ſorrow and contrition, have ren-'dered the remembrance of her as it were 'ſacred to my ideas. Had I occaſioned 'ſuch misfortunes to an indifferent per-'ſon, as I did to her, I muſt have looked 'upon myſelf as the moſt compleat villain 'alive, had I not been penetrated with the 'deepeſt contrition and have employed my 'whole life, to repair my error. But the 'circumſtances attending this diſcovery — 'the woman I adored — the woman I 'wrong'd — the mother of my friend, 'and the preſerver of my life — Oh 'Darking, it is to much!

Had the deſign of theſe pages been only to amuſe, the author would not have let ſlip the opportunity of an unexpected interview between Leſtrange and the lady, which might have given riſe to a great many pretty ſayings and pleaſing attitudes on both ſides, but all this tempting ſcene has been ſacrificed for the ſake of truth. For Darking, from the very firſt hint of the diſcovery, had formed a noble ſcheme, but very delicate in the execution, and ſuch, as by no means, admitted of that picturesque diſcovery which novelliſts are ſo fond of. In fact, it was neceſſary for him to know Leſtrange's true ſentiments with regard to his mother, and as he now was fully maſter of them in a way that left him no room for ſuſpicion, he reſolved to proceed accordingly.

He was as good as his word with his friend. For though Leſtrange's impatience was very viſible, Darking prevailed upon him to ſpend as much of the night as they could together, 'and by to morrow 'morning, added he, you will have leiſure

'to

'to ſettle with yourſelf the ceremonial of 'your audience.' Darking made uſe of this interval to recount to him the whole ſtory of his mother, which the other heard with all the ſymptoms of aſtoniſhment and admiration.

The ſurpriſe having been broken on both ſides, there was nothing very paſſionate in the interview next day between Mrs. Manby and Leſtrange. Darking had very ſenſibly made it a preliminary with the latter that he ſhould not ſo much as touch upon what had paſſed between his mother and him. 'This, adds he, I do by her own expreſs 'command. She is fully appriſed of your in-'nocence, and by calling to mind any thing 'diſagreeable that has happened can ſerve 'to no manner of purpoſe but to renew the 'ſorrows of you both.' The meeting therefore was marked by a chearful eaſe and a delightful ſatisfaction on the part of Mrs. Manby, who received Leſtrange as a friend, whoſe company ſhe had long loſt and earneſtly deſired. He, on the other hand, preſerved a moſt reſpectful ſilence, but his looks

looks and manner were expreſſive of the moſt tender concern that he was debarred from pouring forth at her feet the ſentiments of his ſoul.

Darking narrowly watched the motions of both, and though he had no room to doubt of his friend's conſtancy, yet in three or four days time he perceived that he was, if poſſible, her lover more than ever. As to his mother he could not in the leaſt perceive from her manner, that there was the leaſt alteration in her way of thinking.

But it was now time for all parties to fix ſome future ſcheme of life. Mrs. Manby's affairs were now perfectly ſettled to her contentment, and ſhe longed impatiently to return to England. Darking, ſince his acquaintance with Leſtrange, had formed notions of life very different from thoſe he entertained before, and this new taſte led him moſt earneſtly to wiſh, that he might have better opportunities of perſuing it than any he could find in that

iſland

iſland, or the way of buſineſs to which he had been bred. It is true, he was ſo far from diſliking the ſea, that he ſtill would have perſued it, had there been the leaſt proſpect of his riſing in the navy ſo as to be of uſe either to himſelf or to his country; but he had received too diſcouraging a ſpecimen in the affair between him and Dotterel, for him to flatter himſelf with that thought, unleſs he was to ſacrifice his native candour and courage to pride, avarice, and cowardice. He ſaw, indeed, a few worthy men riſe to command, but the diſproportion between them and thoſe who were cruſhed in the attempt, was ſo great, that he looked upon the attempt to be next to madneſs in a man whoſe fortune was not deſperate. As to following buſineſs in the commercial way he was not qualified either by education or inclination, neither did his circumſtances require it; ſo that, upon the whole, he longed, as much as his mother did, to return to England.

The ſituation of Mr. Leſtrange was very different, as the reader may eaſily conceive,

from what it was when he left Tobago. Darking had executed, with great ſucceſs, the commiſſions he gave him in charge. He had engaged for him a white ſervant, whom his mother recommended, and who had ſerved her for ten years with great ability and integrity; and had made him a preſent of ſome of her beſt negroes, which ſhe had reſerved for that purpoſe; beſides a great many utenſils and ſome furniture which he could not purchaſe for money. He had, therefore, now no farther buſineſs upon the iſland; not to mention that the time of his return had been for ſome weeks elapſed, and that Darking's ſhip was now ready to return with him. Notwithſtanding all this, he found within his own breaſt an unſurmountable obſtacle to his return, for he thought Mrs. Manby more lovely than ever.

Darking perceived his embaraſſment, and gueſſed at the cauſe, but took care to diſſemble his knowledge of it both from his friend and his mother, that he might ſerve both. He choſe to begin with the

latter;

latter; and one evening when they were by themſelves, and when he knew they ſhould not be interrupted, he aſſumed an unuſual air of melancholy. His mother preſſing him to diſcover the cauſe, he ſeemed ſolicitous to avoid the diſcourſe, which made her inſiſt upon it the more earneſtly, and at laſt ſhe told him ſhe believed he was in love. Darking remained ſilent at this, which ſhe took for a tacit confeſſion, but wondered he ſhould keep it ſecret from her. 'I know you have 'too much honour, ſays ſhe, to love any 'woman for marriage that cannot bring 'you virtue for her fortune, and if ſhe 'brings you that, my conſent ſhall never 'be wanting to your happineſs. At the 'ſame time, continued ſhe, I have too 'good opinion of your good ſenſe to think, 'that a young fellow like you, who can, 'at any time, afford to ſport away a 'thouſand guineas, will give himſelf an 'hour's pain in this iſland about any 'woman that has not virtue.'

'But is it not poſſible, replies the other, 'that I may love a woman who has vir- 'tue and yet my ſuit may be deſperate, 'becauſe either her fortune is ſuperior, or 'her inclination unfavourable, to mine?'

'As to fortune, ſays ſhe, I know no 'lady in Jamaica who has a right to re- 'fuſe you on that account; and as to 'inclination, you are to do what all young 'fellows of ſenſe and ſpirit ought to do, 'let your behaviour and actions be ſuch 'as may make her aſhamed to refuſe 'you.'

'But ſuppoſing, madam, the lady has 'an averſion to me, ſuppoſing ſhe diſ- 'likes marriage in any ſhape, ſuppoſing ſhe 'has prudential conſiderations that make 'her decline it, do you approve of my 'perſecuting her into a conſent?'

'No, but I ſhould very much approve 'of your turning your ſuppoſitions into 'certainties, without taking a peeviſh or

'a

'a doubtful anſwer, for a reſolute flat de-
'nial, and even then, nothing is ſo fooliſh
'as deſpair.'

'How ſhould you like this doctrine
'yourſelf, madam, ſuppoſing you was be-
'loved by a man whom you either could
'not, or would not marry; would you
'think it very reaſonable that ſuch a man
'ſhould perſecute you with his courtſhip,
'under the notion that while he was doing
'ſo he was acting as a man of ſenſe and
'ſpirit?'

'My caſe, ſon, is different.'——

'Not one bit, madam: Mr. Leſtrange
'tells me every day, you are more agree-
'able now than you was the firſt time
'he ſaw you; and pray, madam, what
'can tell you that he ought to love you
'leſs? For my own part, I am afraid he
'loves you more; and I hope, when you
'conſider matters ſeriouſly, you will find
'very ſtrong and very ſubſtantial reaſons,
'why you ought not to diſlike his ad-

'dreſſes.——I know what you are going 'to urge,' (ſeeing his mother in great confuſion at the unexpected turn the converſation had taken) 'that you have no 'inclination for marriage; but let me 'aſk you, if you have not ſome very in-'viſible diſinclination, whether pruden-'tial reaſons ought not to determine you 'to make my friend my father. You 'are going to England, you are miſtreſs 'of a fortune which ſets you in high life; 'ten thouſand enquiries will be made 'about your perſon and hiſtory, and can 'you do better than to make a huſband 'of the only man who can vindicate 'your conduct from the aſperſions, or at 'leaſt, ſuſpicions, that your unfortunate 'adventures muſt naturally occaſion, even 'amongſt the beſt natured.'

The farther the ſon proceeded in his argument the mother grew more ſerious, and both remained ſilent for ſome time after he had finiſhed. I ſhall not take up my reader's time with any minute repetition of the converſation that followed between

between them. Mrs. Manby objected her indifferency for all mankind; her ſon put her in mind of her regard for her character. She ſpoke of the prejudice which her marriage might be to his intereſt; he anſwered her by the benefits he would reap by it from friendſhip. She mentioned the folly of marrying at her years; and he replied, by leading her up to the looking-glaſs. In ſhort, ſhe found him ſo much in earneſt, that ſhe took that night to conſider of it; and at parting ſhe told him, with a ſmile, that if any bad conſequences ſhould happen from his propoſal he had himſelf to blame.

Next morning, after breakfaſt, Mrs. Manby, ſending for her ſon to her room, 'Tom, ſaid ſhe, yeſterday you talked like 'a young fool, and I like an old one. 'Suppoſing now I could bring myſelf to 'bear with your prudential reaſons, as you 'call them, ſo far as to think of this man, 'let me tell you, there are other prudential 'conſiderations beſides thoſe you mention-'ed. It is but prudent I ſhould know a 'little more about this man's character

'before I make him my huſband, and 'of his circumſtances before he becomes 'my maſter. Whatever partiality I may 'ſhow to you in the ſettlement of my 'eſtate, yet ſtill, that part of it which 'I ſhall reſerve to myſelf, will be too 'much to throw away upon indigence 'and prodigality. I am in no doubt 'either of your diſcernment, or ſincerity, 'and the warmth of your friendſhip gives 'me even pleaſure; but ſtill this gentle-'man is but a late acquaintance of yours, 'and he may be called a ſtranger to me.'— Mr. Darking owned the juſtneſs of his mother's obſervations, and aſked her pardon for his inadvertency, laying it upon the violent paſſion of his friend for her, and his own conviction, that the match would be for her honour, could ſhe but think it conſiſtent with her happineſs.

'Tom, anſwered ſhe, I have examined 'my own heart, and my own ſituation; 'and, after fairly comparing all circum-'ſtances, I cannot think there can be any 'objection to what you propoſe, but what

'ought

'ought to ariſe from yourſelf. I will be ſo 'very candid as to own that you ſhall deter-'mine me; though you, I hope, cannot 'doubt my ſincerity when I aſſure you in 'the moſt ſolemn manner, that were I to 'be determined by inclination alone, I 'would ſtill remain ſingle. At the ſame 'time, I am ſenſible that my averſion from 'marrying Mr. Leſtrange is not ſo unſur-'mountable as to be proof againſt the pru-'dential conſiderations which you have ſo 'ſenſibly, and ſo juſtly, urged in his favour. 'Did my inclination tye me to the match, 'I could fairly make uſe of your own ar-'guments, even if you was to diſlike it, 'and I am apt to believe you would find 'them unanſwerable. I forego that advan-'tage, however, and you are, even now, 'at liberty to retract your plea.' Darking thanked his mother for her kind and gene-rous declaration; telling her, that though he was more than ever inclined in favour of his friend, yet he had too tender a con-cern in her happineſs, to riſk the ſmalleſt chance that attended it; and that, as ſhe had very properly thrown out ſome hints about

Leſtrange's circumſtances, he ſhould not be eaſy till he was clear, in that reſpect, beyond all poſſibility of deceit.

Darking, upon this, went to his friend, whom he found alone, and in his apartment. He began with talking about his intended voyage to Tobago, and told him that in five days, at moſt, his ſhip would be ready to take him on board. This was anſwered only by a deep ſigh on the part of Leſtrange, who could no longer ſtifle his paſſion, but gave it vent by a full and an earneſt declaration of the ſituation of his heart, and the impoſſibility of his ever being again happy. This avowal was attended with a flood of tears, which, though they drew ſome from Darking, yet did not make him forget that he was now executing a truſt that was to be deciſive of his mother's happineſs. In ſhort, Darking had the addreſs to engage his friend, though with the utmoſt delicacy, to let him into all he wanted to know; and, his confidence in him grew ſo high, that he put into his hand a will, all written by himſelf, in which he made Mrs. Manby his ſole heireſs

heireſs and executrix to all his eſtate, the particulars of which, Darking found, upon peruſal, to amount to upwards of one hundred and twenty thouſand pounds, moſt of it in ready money. 'I had, added Leſtrange, many 'years ago, made my will to the very ſame 'intent, and I have it ſtill by me; but as it 'is not deſcriptive enough of your mother's 'perſon, becauſe of her change of name, 'and circumſtances, I think it will be pro-'per to execute this new one before I leave 'the iſland. Darking could no longer with-'ſtand this proof of his friend's regard for 'his mother; but, after embracing him, 'told him all the good fortune he had pre-'pared for him in her approbation of his 'addreſſes.'

He then, without any ceremony, led his friend into his mother's room, and without ſuffering him to recover from the ſurprize this agreeable news gave him, he told his mother the ſignal teſtimony he had given of his love, when he could have no other motive for it, but the hopeleſs remembrance of her perſon and virtues.

This introduced a very paſſionate converſation upon the part of Leſtrange; and after both dining and ſupping together, it was agreed, that he and Mrs. Manby ſhould be married, as ſoon as decently they could; and the management of the whole, was left to Darking, who ſeem'd the moſt overjoy'd of the three, at the proſpect of his friend's happineſs.

Next day, however, Mr. Leſtrange, from a motive of uncommon delicacy, urged the delay of the ceremony, till their arrival at Tobago. 'I am, ſaid he, furniſhed in that place with proofs, that 'can convince you, that I am not a beggar. There, I hope to make it appear, 'that your fortune, great as it is, can be 'no motive for my marrying you; and 'as I muſt indiſpenſibly return thither, I 'ſhould be ſorry to poſtpone my happineſs, till my return to this iſland.' Darking, upon ſecond thoughts, found that his friend's propoſition was both reaſonable and generous; and Mrs. Manby agreed to it, not only for theſe reaſons, but becauſe

cauſe it would ſave her from the impertinencies, which a woman of her fortune and circumſtances generally undergoes, from a ſudden marriage with a ſtranger, in the very heart of her friends and acquaintances. It was not, however; till next day, that Mrs. Manby put them in mind of a capital omiſſion, which was no leſs than that of a clergyman. 'That is a circumſtance, 'reply'd Mr. Leſtrange with a ſmile, that 'I did not forget, though I did not men-'tion it. The worthy friend, whom I 'have truſted with the management of my 'affairs, in my abſence, is a clergyman of 'the church of England, and loves me 'too well to refuſe making me happy.'

The few days betwixt the fixing this reſolution, and their arrival at Tobago, were ſpent by Leſtrange, in making himſelf as agreeable as he could, to his intended bride; and it muſt be own'd, that if he did not make a deep impreſſion upon her heart, he at leaſt conquered her indifferency. His own excellent good ſenſe ſoon diſcovered, that Mrs. Manby was of a caſt not to be ſurprized

prized by the common artifices of love or courtſhip, however gallantly they may be managed. He therefore applied himſelf, with the utmoſt deference and aſſiduity, to gain her eſteem, but in ſuch a manner, as gave her to underſtand, that he was in hopes her love would follow it. Darking did his utmoſt endeavours to ſecond the views of his friend. He never failed to enlarge upon the juſtneſs and beauty of every obſervation, that fell from the lover of his mother, and was perpetually exciting her attention, to the charms of his converſation. This obliging behaviour in her ſon, gave Mrs. Manby more exquiſite pleaſure, than ſhe had received from all the courtſhip of Leſtrange. She conſidered it as a proof of his affection for the man, whom ſhe was to make her huſband; and as ſhe had conquered her averſion to marriage, chiefly by her ſon's perſuaſions, her indifference for her lover every day abated.

When they arrived at Tobago, Mrs. Manby was agreeably diſappointed in the

accommodations ſhe met with at her lover's dwelling. Every thing about his family, wore an air of œconomy, but it was of an œconomy that denoted eaſe and plenty, without riot or prodigality. She remark'd an exceſſive neatneſs, both within and without doors; and though her own houſekeeping had been both ſplendid and regular, yet ſhe here found an elegance of entertainment, that ſhe had been a ſtranger to till this time. She was ſurprized to ſee, that every thing ſerved to table was the very beſt of its kind, and the cellars ſtored with the moſt exquiſite wines of Europe. The beauty of the habitation gave her inexpreſſible delight; but all was nothing to the pleaſure ſhe received, when ſhe underſtood, that all the agreeable objects ſhe beheld, was owing to the prudence, the care, good management, and contrivance of her lover, who appeared to be the only perſon in the family, who was inſenſible of the pleaſure of living in this charming retreat.

The reader may be in ſome ſurprize, why

why ſhe remained here ſo long as a viſitor, and not as the miſtreſs of the family. The reaſon was, that the clergyman, who was to marry them, had for three weeks been confined to his bed, by a ſevere fit of illneſs, when they landed, and was not yet recovered ſo well, as to be able to perform the function. Though this diſappointment was ſomewhat irkſome to Mr. Leſtrange, yet the impatience he diſcovered to his miſtreſs, was ſo decent and polite, that ſhe obſerved with ſecret ſatisfaction, the art with which her lover united the utmoſt refinements of good breeding with the warmeſt ſentiments of love. She could not diſſemble, either from him, or her ſon, the pleaſure ſhe received from his behaviour, and, at the ſame time, her aſtoniſhment, of meeting, in an almoſt uninhabited American iſland, all the plenty, the politeneſs, and conveniences, that reign in the nobleſt European villa. 'Surely,' ſaid ſhe, one day after dinner, (when none but Leſtrange and her ſon were by) 'Mr. Leſtrange, you muſt have gone 'through a great variety of ſcenes to have

'ac-

'acquired ſo much elegance of taſte, as 'every thing about you diſcovers; for, Sir, 'tho' I am very fully convinced of your 'good ſenſe, learning and philoſophy, with 'all the other train of your intellectual 'acquirements, yet you will give me leave 'to ſay, that the habits of life, in which 'you ſeem to be ſo converſant, can be ac-'quired in life only.'

'Your laſt obſervation, madam, repli-'ed he, is ſo juſt, that it gives me ſome 'pain to reflect, that I have not prevented 'you in a requeſt, which you have had a 'right to make, ever ſince you have made 'me the happieſt of mankind. But 'the omiſſion was owing entirely to the 'illneſs of the worthy clergyman, who 'was to have join'd our hands, and who 'is not only acquainted with, but has 'accompanied me in, the ſeveral turns of 'my fortune, ſome particulars of which 'would have come from him with a better 'grace, than they can come from me. 'However, if you are ſufficiently intereſt-'ed in it, to deſire to hear my hiſtory,

'ſince

'ſince the time of our melancholy ſepa-
'ration in England, I am very ready to
'obey your commands.' Both Mrs. Manby and her ſon, teſtified great pleaſure in this propoſal; but notwithſtanding the impatience, both of them expreſſed, Mr. Leſtrange told them, he could not anſwer for the accuracy of certain particulars, unleſs they would adjourn to his ſtudy, where he had ſome notes and papers, that were abſolutely neceſſary for refreſhing his memory. This motion being agreed to, Mrs. Manby had new matter of admiration, when ſhe arrived at that enchanting ſpot, which her ſon never had mentioned to her, becauſe of the ſecreſy, with which Leſtrange had introduced him to it, and the confidence he had repoſed in him. The charms of the place, for ſome time, ſuſpended Mrs. Manby's curioſity, to hear the hiſtory of her lover. The buſts and the pictures, were far beyond any thing ſhe had ever ſeen, and ſome time was taken up in Mr. Leſtrange's deſcribing them. At laſt, being conveniently ſeated, he began as follows.

THE

THE MOTHER: OR, THE HAPPY DISTRESS.

BOOK IV.

The Adventures of Mr. LESTRANGE.

NOtwithſtanding all the diſſipation of my youth, the hiſtory of which has nothing to diſtinguiſh it very particularly, I flatter myſelf I never was either profane or immoral, and I have ſtill retained a paſſion for learning, and the fine arts,

arts, which has been my companion thro' all the viciſſitudes of my life. The hardſhips I met with from my father, ſerved but to improve me in both, ſince all the time I was debar'd, by my narrow circumſtances, from beſtowing in the amuſements uſual to young gentlemen of my age and fortune, were employed by me upon books, and the cultivation of my mind. However ſmall my progreſs in either might be, yet I muſt be allowed to have given a proof of having acquired a good taſte in one important article of life by you, madam, being the firſt, and the only object I ever loved. As neither you, nor your ſon, are ſtrangers to the unhappy progreſs of my paſſion, I ſhall paſs by all the particulars of my life, till the impriſonment I ſuffered through the management of my father, about the time you, madam, left England.

Upon my being releaſed, I returned home, where I learned the melancholy cataſtrophe, which my imprudence and miſfortunes had occaſioned to you. It would

be

be impoſſible for me to deſcribe the ſituation of my mind, being actually void of all conſciouſneſs, through a kind of phrenzy I fell into, occaſioned by remorſe, ſorrow, and love. But that was a happy ſtate of mind, compared to what I felt, when I recovered. My anguiſh, too great for utterance, ſettled into a calm ſteady reſolution, to be revenged of the authors of my misfortune; and I was even cool enough to calculate, how far the laws of nature and religion allowed me to carry my reſentment againſt my father, whom I conſidered as the main ſpring of all my miſery. Being made acquainted with all the particulars of what had befallen you, I was very clear, that he was a very bad man; and I was as clear as to the diſtinction, between the man and the father. He miſtook the compoſed manner in which I acted, for want of ſpirit, and a dread of his authority, which he reſolved, if poſſible, to encreaſe, by a ſtill ſeverer treatment, that I might be deterred from making any future applications to my aunt. At firſt, however, he affected great lenity,

and

and told me, that I might be maſter of myſelf, and that he would furniſh me with a reaſonable allowance for my pocket, provided I would accept of one Mr. Wilkie for a companion and tutor, and promiſe to be adviſed in my conduct, by his ſuperior judgment and experience. 'Mr. 'Wilkie, continued he, is one of the 'moſt learned gentlemen in Europe, and 'has ſeen ſo much of the world, that he 'is a proper perſon to correct all the un-'couth home-bred habits you have con-'tracted; and if I ſhall find, by a trial of 'ſix or eight months, that you improve 'by his care, I deſign that he ſhall at-'tend you, upon a ſhort tour of travels 'through France and Holland. This, it 'is true, will be a conſiderable addition 'of expence to me, but you ſee I value 'nothing, equal to the pleaſure of ſeeing 'you worthy to inherit the eſtate, I will 'one day leave you.' I anſwered this declaration, only with a low bow; and in two or three days, Mr. Wilkie, who had been ſome weeks about the houſe, enter'd upon his charge.

He

He was by birth either Scotch or Iriſh, for he poſſeſſed all the bad qualities of both nations; ignorant, aſſuming, and inſolent to the laſt degree. His pedantry was inſupportable, and he had moſt conſummate impudence. I only touch upon his viſible qualities, for as to his other ones, they were too black for deſcription. He had, for ſome years, been employ'd as a travelling governor, and by a pragmatical way of talking concerning things, which he was ſure none of the company knew any thing about, he obtained the character of being learned; by his ſilence, where he knew he was overmatch'd, he was thought wiſe; from his formality, he was judg'd to be virtuous; and by his having attained to ſome ſmattering in French learning, he paſt for polite. Though I am not fond of digreſſions, at preſent, eſpecially, yet I have often admired the force of adulation and a ſpecious behaviour in this fellow; for I have ſeen him careſſed, not only by meer country gentlemen, like my father, but by men of rank, taſte and knowlege of the world. I eaſily gueſſed, from the firſt mention

mention of him by my father, that he was intended, not only to controul me, but to be a ſpy upon my actions, and, indeed, the ſhocking airs of ſuperiority he gave himſelf, when he enter'd upon his buſineſs, made me conceive at once an invincible contempt and averſion for his perſon. That I might the more eaſily rid myſelf of his tyranny, and that of my father, which was equally inſupportable, I privately wrote a long letter to my aunt, penned in ſuch a manner, as not only to awaken all her tenderneſs for me, but to convince her that my father's only motive for treating me in the manner he did, was avarice, and an unwillingneſs to part with the eſtate that was indiſputably my due. I likewiſe recounted all the unhappy adventure for which he had made her inſtrumental in throwing me into jail, and informed her, that ſince that time, my father's rigors were rather increaſed than diminiſhed, and that he had put a Scotch, or Iriſh papiſt, about me as a ſpy upon my conduct.

The old woman, fir'd with my relation, and eſpecially by her zeal againſt popery, which I had induſtriouſly endeavoured to bring in amongſt my grievances, ſent her favourite courier with a letter, which he had orders to convey privately into my own hand, together with a letter about their common buſineſs to my father, which was to be the pretext of his journey. The fellow acquitted himſelf very dexterouſly of his commiſſion; and the old lady had been ſo extremely careful, as not only to incloſe in my letter, a bank bill for two hundred pounds, but to give the bearer twenty guineas for my uſe, in caſe I found difficulty in changing the bill. Incloſed likewiſe, within my letter, was one to her own attorney and agent in London, a man of a very fair character, recommending to him the care of ſeeing juſtice done me, in the equitable claim I had upon my father.

My mother-in-law, by this time, was dead, and her place in my father's bed, was ſupply'd by the houſe-keeper. As to himſelf, he was confin'd night and day to his

couch, by the gout; but Mr. Wilkie acted as his deputy, both within and without doors. The ſeaſonable ſupply I had received from my aunt, however, determined me to begin my operations. I engaged one of the ſervants, who was in my intereſt, to hire a poſt-chaiſe (for I was not ſuffered to keep a horſe) and order'd it to be at my father's gate immediately after dinner. It happened that very day, my father, Wilkie, and I, dined by ourſelves, and I had been treated with the utmoſt ſeverity by the one, and ill manners by the other. After dinner, I bluntly, and without the leaſt apology, aſked my father, when he would be pleaſed to let me enter poſſeſſion of my eſtate. The old gentleman's frame ſeemed to ſuffer a convulſion at this queſtion, and his rage choaked him ſo much, that it was with difficulty he could pronounce the words, 'Eſtate! horſe whip, you dog, you mean. 'The villain's brain is turn'd. — Mr. 'Wilkie, carry him up ſtairs, let his room 'be darken'd. — I'll let you know, you 'dog, that you have no eſtate, but beg-
'gary.

'gary. — Away with him Mr. Wilkie.' This rant had no manner of effect upon me, but to make me more determined to exert myſelf with ſpirit. We were at that very time, living in a houſe that actually belong'd to me, in the county of Surry, to which my father had removed upon my mother-in-law's death. I anſwered with great firmneſs, walking about the room, and looking round me, that I deſigned to have ſeveral alterations and repairs made in the houſe, and I hoped he would quit it in a few days, becauſe I was reſolved to be maſter there. '— You maſter!' ſaid Wilkie, coming up to me, and laying hold on my collar, 'Yes, ſays I, and 'here I will begin the exerciſe of my au-'thority;' and diſingaging myſelf from his hold, I knock'd him with one blow to the ground, I then catched hold of my father's cane, and exerciſed him with it, ſo ſmartly, that he lay roaring out murder on the floor, unable to ſtir hand or foot, while my father joining in the cry, was uſing all the menaces and imprecations againſt me, that his fury could ſug-

geſt. By this time, the ſervants were thundering at the door, which I took care to faſten beforehand, and though my father made ſeveral fruitleſs efforts to riſe, I affected ſo much ſerenity, that after taking a pinch of ſnuff, I again fell to belabouring Wilkie, and when I thought I had given him as much as he could bear, I unlock'd the dining room door, and in ruſh'd Mrs. Pinch, for ſo the houſe-keeper was called, at the head of the other domeſticks, who conſiſted of the coachman, two footmen, and two maids. The two footmen being in my intereſt, paid no regard to my father's orders to ſeize me; but the coachman, who ſupply'd to Mrs. Pinch the defects of my father's age and infirmities, followed her example, in endeavouring to lay hold of me, when I laid him flat along ſide of Wilkie, with a blow of the cane, and then very calmly ſeating myſelf, I filled out a glaſs of wine to my father's health, and enjoy'd my triumph, by kicking Mrs. Pinch down ſtairs, and ordering the two maim'd champions to be carried from the field of battle.

By

By this time, my father's rage, though not diminiſhed, was more tractable. He beheld me with a kind of ſilent horror, when I aſked him in a tone of voice, and a manner, as if nothing extraordinary had happen'd, whether he had any commands for London, and whether he would be ſo good (pulling it out) as to change me a two hundred pound bank bill; but receiving no anſwer, but a look full of fury, I withdrew, and ſtept into the poſt chaiſe.

When, at this time of life, I review my behaviour at that time, I acknowledge there was ſomewhat in it that was puerile and impotent. But then my provocation, and the ſtate of my mind, which was next to diſtraction, are to be conſider'd.

I alighted at the houſe of Mr. Truſty the lawyer, for whom I had my aunt's addreſs, and in a few hours, I made him maſter of my whole hiſtory, hopes and fears. He entered into my intereſts with

the zeal of a friend, rather than of an attorney; and the first thing he did next day, was to procure from a certain foreign minister, in consideration of twenty guineas, paid for his excellency's use, a protection for my person against all debts. This proved to be a very sagacious precaution, for in three days time, I was arrested in actions for upwards of fifteen hundred pounds. As Mr. Trusty knew this was done through my father's instigation, he wrote him, by my directions, a very respectful, though a very severe letter, laying open the whole ground of my complaint I had against his treatment of me, and acquainting him, that if he did not, in a certain time, quit possession of my house and estate, he would proceed according to law, in order to put me in possession. Tho' I was sensible, my father was conscious that all my claims and complaints were but too well founded, yet I knew him too thoroughly to imagine, he was to be intimidated. His first attempt was to get my protection withdrawn, and in this he succeeded so well, that his excellency's secretary

one

one morning, called at my lodgings to tell me, that my father's intereſt againſt me was ſo great, he was afraid his excellency would find it difficult to continue my protection. I told him very frankly the reaſon, why I had obtained it, and after a good deal of converſation together, I got from him the whole ſecret, which was, that my father had offer'd his excellency a hundred guineas, to have it withdrawn, and that I muſt advance upon that ſum, if I expected to have it continued.

Though I was very ſenſible, that the rights indulged by the practice of nations to ambaſſadors, are very wiſe, and might be rendered very ſalutary; yet I was ſhocked by this proſtitution of privilege, and with very little ceremony, I ſhewed the ſecretary the way down ſtairs, threatning to expoſe both him and his maſter, if I heard another word from them upon that head, and daring them to do their worſt. Mr. Truſty, whom I immediately ſent for, highly approved of what I had done. 'It was, ſaid he, not only the moſt

'ſpirited, but wiſeſt, courſe you could have 'taken, for if you had comply'd, there would 'have been no end of their demands, and 'now they will be afraid to renew them, for 'fear of being expoſed. But, added he, 'I have taken care, in all events, that you 'ſhall be provided againſt a jail, for I per-'ceive, by the information of papers from 'Doctors-Commons, that your caſe is very 'plain; and I have repeated orders from 'your aunt, to leave nothing undone for 'your ſervice.'

As Truſty had foreſeen, I heard nothing farther from the ambaſſador, and the time preſcribed by my father being now elapſed, he was ſerved with the neceſſary proceſſes, to oblige him to do me juſtice. My father, by this time, was no longer at a loſs to know how I was ſupported. Notwithſtanding his pride, he made ſeveral very humiliating advances to my aunt, in order to prevail upon her to with-draw her favour from me, and he was mean enough to ſupport his application with ſome blackning circumſtances, of which I

was

was perfectly innocent. Though my aunt was far from giving much credit to these, yet they had such effect upon her, that she wrote me a letter, so full of care and concern for my person and interest, that Mr. Trusty thought it highly expedient, I should pay her a visit, and undeceive her.

She wrote, at the same time, a very smart letter to my father, and such as induced him to employ my brother, who was but a year younger than myself, and had a commission in the army, to enter into an arbitration for accommodating our differences. But as I was actuated less by interest than resentment, I rejected the proposal with some warmth, and left the matter to the law.

Being provided with the proper credentials, I set out for my aunt's seat in Shropshire. Though she had given me an unlimited credit, not only for my law suit, but my pocket, I took care to avoid all appearance of expence, and therefore

carried no ſervant along with me. I obſerved that this prepoſſeſſed the old lady ſtrongly in my favour, and upon my producing the writings I had to ſhow her, giving her, at the ſame time, a very candid narrative of my caſe, I fixed her more than ever in my intereſt; nor would ſhe ſuffer me to leave her till I promiſed to look upon her purſe as my own, and to make a figure more ſuitable to my expectations.

This viſit happened about the beginning of October, when the exceſſive rains that had fallen ſwelled the river ſo much, that travelling was dangerous. Upon my return, when I was within about forty miles of London, I was obliged to ſtop at an inn upon the bank of a river, which I found impaſſible. Having put up my horſe, finding myſelf fatigued, I had ſtripped myſelf to take ſome repoſe, when I ſaw, from the window, a chariot and four horſes take the river, and before it had croſſed it half, the current bore the horſes down, ſo that thoſe in the chariot were in the utmoſt danger. I run down ſtairs, and up to the middle

middle into the ſtream to try whether I could any way aſſiſt the unhappy objects, when I plainly enough perceived the chariot was driven by my father's coachman, in his livery. Without a ſecond thought I plunged into the ſtream, and being young, very vigorous, and an expert ſwimmer, I I ſoon got up with the chariot, juſt at the time my father muſt inevitably have periſhed had I not arrived. By good luck, upon the firſt appearance of danger, he had opened both doors of the chariot, by which the waves having a free vent had hitherto prevented his ſinking, but he was void of all ſenſibility, and was almoſt choaked with the water he had been obliged to ſwallow, when, catching him in my arms, and pulling him out of the chariot, I ſwam with him to ſhore with a few ſtrokes. We were received by the landlord of the inn, and a humane apothecary, who lived within a few doors, and who came to the water ſide prepared with every thing that could aſſiſt the patient if he ſtill retained any ſigns of life. His application proved ſo ſucceſsful, that my father having voided a vaſt

quantity, bled freely at a vein which was opened, and being put into a warm bed, in a few hours he recovered his ſpeech and ſenſes ſo well, that a phyſician, whom I had ſent for from a neighbouring town, when he arrived, entertained great hopes of his recovery.

It was now time to enquire about my father's attendants, and I learned that the coachman had found means to ſave Mrs. Pinch, who was in the chariot with my father, and that they were both taken care of at another public houſe in the village, that the footmen, upon the firſt appearance of danger, had gallantly turned their horſes heads and returned to ſhore, but that all the coach-horſes had been drown'd.

After ſlipping five guineas into the phyſician's hand, I told him that I expected he would ſleep that night in the inn, that he might be at hand if the gentleman ſhould require any further aſſiſtance, and upon his telling me that his patient was enjoying a profound ſleep I retired, about two in the morning, to bed, leaving orders

ders to call me if the gentleman ſhould grow worſe.

Notwithſtanding the great fatigue I had ſuffered, my reflections upon this uncommon adventure kept me awake. It was with infinite pleaſure I recollected what had happened, but the idea of her, whom my father's cruelty had ruined, gave my train of thinking a very uncommon turn. For though I thought myſelf extremely happy in what I had done, yet I was vexed to think my father ſhould know he owed his life to my danger. I was afraid it might give him ſome conſolation to learn that he had a ſon capable of ſo much filial piety, and I was reſolved to avoid every circumſtance that might prevent my proſecuting my lawſuit againſt him with the utmoſt rigour. By this means, I thought he would be ſtung more ſeverely than he would be if he knew that I had ſtill ſentiments of duty and nature in my breaſt. I therefore determined to leave him in ignorance of what I had done, and this was the more eaſy as I knew I had not been ſeen either

either by the coachman or Mrs. Pinch, and as the footmen, who had by this time croſſed in the ferry-boat, were new ſervants and ſtrangers to my perſon.

I have, ſince that time, often conſulted my own reaſon and that of others, to determine whether this reſolution was conſiſtent with the dictates of nature and religion, and upon principles which I ſhall not enter upon at preſent, I am convinced it was.

As ſoon as I aroſe next morning I underſtood by the doctor that his patient wanted only ſleep and repoſe for his perfect recovery, but that the coachman and the gentlewoman were in a very dangerous way. This determined me to paſs that day likewiſe at the inn, and I fee'd the doctor afreſh, to continue his attendance. 'I am, continued I, no ſtranger to the gentleman, 'who I know never travels with much money about him, and I make no doubt of 'his paying me when I call upon him at 'London, you may, however, doctor, give

'me

'me a memorandum for the money you 'have received, to prevent all miſtakes.' He readily complied, and calling myſelf Frankland, I took his receipt for the money.

Having ſlept pretty late the following morning, the doctor came into my room, and told me that he thought the gentleman was now out of all manner of danger, but that he was very impatient to ſee his generous deliverer, 'I having, ſaid he, informed him 'of the vaſt danger you run in ſaving him.' He told me likewiſe, that he had now great hopes of the gentlewoman and the coachman, though, continued he, the fellow, by all I can learn, deſerves no favour, as he was drunk when he drove into the water, and was ſo careful of the houſekeeper that he gave not the leaſt attention to his maſter.

Upon this information, I told the doctor, who was a man of ſenſe and honour, that I had ſome reaſons for not ſeeing his patient which he might know hereafter; 'but,

'but, added I, I ſhall be obliged to you, 'if you only mention to him, that I was 'in a hurry, and went to London before I 'could have the pleaſure of ſeeing him.' The doctor promiſed all I required, and making the beſt of my way I reached London that night.

I cautiouſly concealed my adventure from every body; even Truſty knew nothing of it, and he told me that my father was gone to my aunt's houſe, in order to prevail upon her, if poſſible, to come to an accommodation. 'He lays great ſtreſs 'continued Truſty, upon his having offered to make matters up in an amicable 'way, and your having refuſed it; and he is 'in hopes that this circumſtance will prevail upon your aunt either to abandon 'you, or to interpoſe her authority for an 'accommodation, and, to ſay the truth, 'the difference between your fair demand 'and his offer, is too trifling to perpetuate 'an animoſity in your family; not to 'mention that the law will, in time, eat 'it all up and more.' I was ſenſible of the

the ſoundneſs of his advice, but continued ſo untractable, that Mr. Truſty could not help ſaying, he was ſure I muſt have other reaſons, beſides intereſt, for my obſtinacy, and that he believed my aunt would be of his way of thinking for an accommodation.

About ſix days after, I met with the captain, my brother, who ſhewed me a letter from my father containing a very full account of his deliverance, and charging him to enquire for one Mr. Frankland, who had ſaved his life, and fee'd the doctor for his recovery, and that if he could not readily find him out, to inſert an advertiſement in the papers, becauſe he could not be eaſy in his mind till he and his family had paid their debts, both of gratitude and money, to ſo generous a deliverer. He added, that he, his houſekeeper, and the coachman, were now perfectly recovered; and that he was at his ſiſter's houſe, who had promiſed to come with him to London, in order to make up matters with that unnatural wretch, his ſon.

Though

Though I could not greatly commend either the politeneſs or the wiſdom of the captain in ſhowing me this letter, yet I could plainly perceive I had more reaſon than ever to guard againſt my father. A few days after, I received a letter from my aunt, ſignifying her intention to come to London by the beginning of November, and giving orders that her houſe there ſhould be fitted up for her reception. At the ſame time ſhe ſignified an earneſt deſire to have matters between my father and me accommodated, and that I ſhould be ſettled in life. This laſt expreſſion gave me a hint that my father had artfully prevailed with her to intereſt herſelf in our affair, by reſuming his intention of marrying me to Miſs Adams. But I knew the worſt, and formed with myſelf a firm reſolution, rather than yield, to leave my country, and to take my chance in the world.

As I had foreſeen, my aunt joined with Truſty in endeavouring to bring me over to an accommodation which I could not avoid without betraying the ſecret of my heart.

heart. I endeavoured, however, as much as poſſible, to avoid extremes; and to keep her my friend. I know too much of my father to imagine that he was in earneſt in the large offers he had made me. I thought, as it afterwards proved, that he had made them only in order to prepoſſeſs my aunt in his favour, and I reſolved to ſerve him in his own kind. I applyed to my aunt, and to Truſty, who made me maſter of the utmoſt extent of the claim I had upon my father, and I expreſſed a willingneſs to come to an accommodation, provided I was put in immediate poſſeſſion of what was my right; being determined to ſettle all my affairs before I ſet out upon a tour of travels, which I intended to take, and which it was the more reaſonable I ſhould do, as it had been propoſed and promiſed me by my father himſelf. At the ſame time, I foretold, that my father would, as ſoon as he found me compliable, either entirely fly off, or raiſe ſo many objections and pretences, as would protract the performance ſo as to render the whole of no uſe to me. My aunt did not ſeem very averſe to my way of thinking, but promiſed, if ſhe diſcovered any thing

of

of that kind, to leave me to act as I pleased. This promiſe, however, was attended with ſome hints, that ſhe would take it kindly if I would make my addreſſes to Miſs Adams. I was prepared for this attack, and told her, with an air of ſecreſy which won her very heart, that I was far from being averſe to marriage, but that if my father did me juſtice I ſhould be entitled to a better fortune than Miſs Adams could bring me; that I had already made my addreſſes to a lady of that kind, whom I was pretty ſure of as ſoon as ſhe came of age; beſides, concluded I, having no inclination for Miſs Adams, we never could be happy together. My worthy friend, Truſty, improved my laſt words ſo well, that we left my aunt more than half perſuaded that I did very rightly in declining my father's choice.

As I had foreſeen, my father, who never had been ſerious in his propoſals, ſhuffled ſo much when he came to performance, that both my aunt and Truſty adviſed me to break off all negotiation with him, which

I accordingly did; and Truſty promiſing to give him no quarter, aſſured me he would obtain judgment againſt him in three months at fartheſt. All this time, my father kept up a correſpondence with my aunt, by means of Mrs. Pinch, who had inſinuated herſelf ſo much into the old lady's favour, that ſhe attended her as a kind of a nurſe during a fit of illneſs ſhe had contracted by the change of air. As I every day viſited my aunt, I was ſometimes obliged, before I could get admittance, to ſtep into Mrs. Pinch's apartment, and even to hold ſome chat with her, but without being very curious in cultivating the acquaintance; and this was a circumſtance which afterwards coſt me dear.

The ſtate of my mind grew every day more gloomy, and my health was ſo viſibly impaired, that I was obliged to take a lodging about twenty miles from London, where I reſided, when buſineſs did not call me to town, and I generally travelled in the ſtage-coach, the exerciſe of riding being thought too violent for my ſtate of health.

health. One day the coach, while I was in it, was attacked by a highwayman, who failed in his attempt, but not before he had diſcharged a piſtol, which wounded me in the arm, and confined me for two or three days to my room.

By this time, my aunt and Truſty had given up all hopes of prevailing on my father; and the phyſicians had adviſed me to travel for the re-eſtabliſhment of my health. This was a remedy that greatly ſuited my diſpoſition, and I reſolved to begin by making myſelf acquainted with our own iſland. I, therefore, purchaſed a poſt-chaiſe, and went north as far as Edinburgh; and in a month's time I found my health greatly recovered by my journey. While I was at Edinburgh, and preparing myſelf to return, a perſon, dreſt like a gentleman, came to my lodgings, and being ſhown into my room, he told me he had a warrant from the ſecretary of ſtate to make me priſoner, and then he ſhowed me the badge of his

office, by which I knew him to be one of the king's meſſengers.

As I had nothing to accuſe myſelf of, I immediately obeyed, not doubting but that there was ſome miſtake in the matter which my arrival in London would clear up, and that I was ſeized upon ſuſpicion of treaſon. Leaving, therefore my ſervant to take care of my equipage, I ſet out next morning along with the meſſenger, who ſeemed ſurpriſed to ſee the chearfulneſs and calmneſs of my behaviour; and by changing our chaiſe at every inn, in four days we reached London, where I was lodged in the meſſenger's houſe.

The firſt thing I did, was to ſend for Truſty, who ſeemed amazed at what had happened. I had been ſo indifferent about my fate that I actually had forgot to demand a ſight of the meſſenger's warrant; but when by Truſty's deſire, he produced it, how was I aſtoniſhed to find the cauſe of my impriſonment expreſt to be an attempt, by poiſon, to take away my father's life.

life. Truſty, who ſeemed to be equally confounded, obſerved that the government never would have proceeded in ſo extraordinary a manner, if the information againſt me were not extremely ſtrong, and that the reaſon of a meſſenger being ſent for me was, becauſe no officer of juſtice, but a ſecretary of ſtate, in England, has any authority in Scotland.

When I came to be examined I found Truſty's obſervations to be true. His lordſhip told me, that now I was arrived in London, the matter was out of his cogniſance, that though he was under no obligation to do it, yet he would make myſelf judge how far he had acted rightly. In ſaying this, he called for the information, upon which the warrant had been granted, and there I found no fewer than three affidavits. The firſt by Mrs. Pinch, who ſwore that, upon the tenth of October, I came into her room where ſhe was in my aunt's houſe, and propoſed to give her a hundred guineas in hand, and five hundred more as ſoon as the affair was over, if I would mix a certain powder, which the deponent ſince

knew to be arſnick, in my father's chocolate; that ſhe diſſembled her horror at this propoſition, and deſired to conſier of it till next day; and that, in the mean time, ſhe had prevailed upon Mr. Wilkie to conceal himſelf in the cloſet to overhear what paſt: that I, according to appointment, returned to the ſame place, where I gave the deponent (upon her ſeeming to conſent) the hundred guineas and the powder. The ſecond affidavit was from Wilkie, who confirmed Mrs. Pinch's information; and the third was a joint affidavit made by Pinch, Wilkie, and the coachman, of my having attempted my father's life, meaning the time when I gave Wilkie the drubbing. 'Now, ſir, 'ſaid the ſecretary, after I had peruſed the 'informations, let me aſk you, as a gentle-'man, what could I have done but what I 'did after ſuch evidence? Your father, in-'deed, from a very decent tenderneſs for his 'ſon, has not made any affidavit againſt you, 'but it was eaſy for me to ſee that he ap-'proved of all that was ſworn againſt you. 'I have, indeed, ſince heard a circumſtance 'I was unacquainted with before, that your

'father and you are at law about an eſtate, 'which makes me hope you will be able to 'clear up ſome of thoſe appearances that 'are ſo ſtrong againſt you at preſent.'

I threw myſelf at his lordſhip's feet to thank him for his candor and humanity; and, after begging for his patience, I related, in as few words as poſſible, the heads of all that had happened between me and my father. He heard me with a temper and attention, that did honour to his ſtation; and ſuch is the force of truth, he ſeemed to be touched, and without explaining himſelf farther, he ordered me back to the meſſenger's houſe. Next day, his lordſhip again ſent for me, to inform me that he had ſeen my father, who appeared ſo inexorable, and ſo determined to proſecute me to the rigour of the law, that he began to have a very bad opinion of the affidavits upon which I had been committed; 'and 'yet, ſaid he, I am afraid I cannot prevent 'your being ſent to Newgate. All I can 'do is to continue you for ſome days in the 'meſſenger's hands, till we ſee whether any 'thing

'thing ſhall offer in your favour.' I was about to reply, when I heard Truſty's voice very loud, in the lobby, demanding an audience of his lordſhip; who underſtanding he was my friend, immediately ordered him admittance. He appeared with a copy of my commitment and ſome other papers in his hand, one of which was the ſurgeon's bill, who had cured me of the wound I had received from the highwayman, and which had, by my orders, been diſcharged by Truſty, while I was in Scotland. While I was at a loſs what he meant, he made his lordſhip obſerve that the days of attendance expreſſed in the bill, were the very ſame days mentioned in the warrant to be the days when I made the deteſtable propoſition to Mrs. Pinch.

His lordſhip ſeemed to be as much overjoyed, as I was, by this diſcovery, and I immediately recollected that I had put down my name as a paſſenger in the ſtage-coach, the day I was wounded. As this was a ſtrong corroborative preſumption of my

innocence, his lordſhip ordered the meſſenger to enquire at the inn, and he returned in half an hour with the book-keeper, and the ſtage-coach book, where my name was very plain. 'Though I am now, ſaid his 'lordſhip, convinced of your innocence, 'yet my advice is, that you continue in the 'meſſenger's houſe, where you ſhall be at 'your freedom, becauſe theſe proofs, ſtrong 'as they are, amount to no more than an 'alibi, and may not, before an ill-natured 'judge, entitle you to your habeas corpus 'upon a charge like this. I will, therefore, 'make another attack upon your father, 'and you ſhall hear from me as ſoon as 'poſſible. Mean while (turning to the 'meſſenger) you are no longer to conſider 'this gentleman as your priſoner, but your 'lodger.'

When I returned to the meſſenger's houſe I found my aunt, to whom Truſty had already imparted his diſcovery, waiting for me. She received me with raptures of affection; and though I would gladly have declined it, ſhe carried Truſty and me

in her own coach, to dine with her at her houſe. After dinner I informed them of the particulars of my adventure, when I ſaved my father from drowning, and which I never before had mentioned to any mortal. They heard the ſtory with ſurpriſe and admiration; and we concluded to keep it ſtill a ſecret; but, that Truſty ſhould, that very afternoon, ſet out to the village, and bring up to town the phyſician, apothecary, and the landlord of the inn, who were to be entruſted with the ſecret, that they might be the more ready to ſerve me. He was in his road to call likewiſe upon the ſurgeon who had cured my wound, that he might, if there was occaſion, be ready to ſwear to the alibi.

Truſty executed his commiſſion to admiration, and returned to town, with all the parties, the very day that the ſecretary of ſtate had appointed to be preſent, at a meeting betwen my father and me, at his lordſhip's houſe. We accordingly met, but to no purpoſe. My father laughed at the alibi proof, and ſaid, he knew too much

of the law to regard it, though it was confirmed by the ſurgeon in perſon, and the ſtage-coach book-keeper. In ſhort, he continued ſo inflexible, and ſo unreaſonable, that his lordſhip, telling him I was no longer a priſoner, left the room in a paſſion. This did not diſconcert my father. He had procured a judge's warrant, and I was, that very evening, taken into cuſtody by a tipſtaff. By virtue of a habeas corpus, which Truſty had provided, I was carried next day before the judge, who, after hearing the evidence I had to urge, adviſed my father to conſent to my being admitted to bail, and even to drop the proſecution, which ſeemed to have a very black aſpect on his ſide; expreſſing, at the ſame time, ſome concern that the laws of England were ſo tender in caſes of perjury. I give you, concluded he, this night to think of it, and to-morrow I will admit your ſon to bail, at all events; but the affair will fall heavy ſome-where.

Some days before this happened, my father, who had in vain made moſt diligent enquiry about

about Franklin, had inſerted an advertiſement for finding him out, and promiſing ſome conſideration for that purpoſe. Tho' my reſentment, for the manner in which he ruined my peace of mind, was as keen as ever, yet when I conſidered my own ſituation, and his caution, I found great reaſon for managing my affairs with delicacy. It is true, that after many long proceſſes in courts of juſtice, I might be cleared in point of law, but it ſhocked me to reflect upon the ſuſpicions which ſo villainous an accuſation muſt leave behind it, and the noiſe it muſt make to my prejudice. It was likewiſe true, that, after infinite trouble and expence, the two wretches, Wilkie and Pinch, might poſſibly have met with ſome ſlight puniſhment, which is all the laws of England allow for perjury. But, how could all this affect my father, who had taken care not to make himſelf a party in the affair. Upon the whole, therefore, I found that by ſuffering the matter to go on, even though I was admited to bail, I muſt be the only ſufferer, and therefore reſolved to make one bold puſh for an honourable deliverance againſt ſo villainous a

charge. When I returned to the tipſtaff's houſe I imparted my thoughts to Truſty, who agreed intirely with me in ſentiments, and gave me ſo many inſtances of the whim, partiality, and injuſtice, both of judges and juries, that I was confirmed in my reſolution. The effect of our deliberation will be beſt known by the manner in which it was executed.

Truſty, that very night, went to doctor Speedman, the phyſician who had attended my father, to the apothecary, and the inn-keeper, who all of them very readily agreed to the parts they were to act. Next morning, Truſty's head clerk, who was a very decent looking man, and entirely unknown to my father, called at his houſe, and being introduced to him, pulled out the newspaper in which was the advertiſement about Franklin, aſking him very reſpectfully whether it related to him? My father eagerly anſwered it did, and that he would give a hundred guineas for an opportunity of teſtifying his gratitude to a man who had ſo generouſly ventured his life to ſave him:

him; aſking, at the ſame time, whether he was the gentleman? The clerk anſwering in the negative; ſaid my father, with a ſigh, I am now apt to think he muſt be ſome inviſible agent ſent by heaven for my preſervation, for all the means I have hitherto employed have proved ineffectual for diſcovering him, unleſs you, Sir, can put me in a way.—'I believe I 'can, Sir, replied the clerk; and if your 'ſentiments of gratitude are ſo warm as 'you expreſs, it is in your power to do 'Mr. Franklin a very important piece 'of ſervice; for you muſt know, Sir, 'that he is at preſent in trouble, and in 'actual cuſtody for the want of a friend; 'and if you will be ſo good'—'That I 'will, interrupts my father, to the half of 'my fortune, I ſhould be worſe than a devil 'elſe.—Here, John, call a hackney-coach; 'I won't wait for my own—Can you 'ſhow me, Sir, were I am to go?' The clerk offering to attend him—my father ſtopped ſhort as they were going out of the door; and looking hard at the clerk, 'Sir, 'ſaid he, I can gather nothing but what is

'very promiſing from your appearance; 'but you are a ſtranger to me; I am a ſtran-'ger in London; and I have heard ſtrange 'ſtories,' — 'I underſtand you, Sir, ſaid 'the clerk: Mr. Franklin; and I foreſaw 'your difficulty, and (pulling out Dr. Speed-'man's receipt) I came provided againſt it; 'do you know this hand?' My father, who ſince his accident, had had ſeveral preſcriptions and letters from the doctor, immediately knew the hand; and aſking pardon for his caution, they both hurried into the coach, which had directions to drive to the Tipſtaff's, where I was in cuſtody.

As my father knew neither the name of the Tipſtaff, nor the houſe, he entered it without ſuſpicion, though he ſaw, by its bolts and grates, that it was a houſe of cuſtody. Being introduced into a pretty handſome room in the firſt floor, the clerk left him, to call down Mr. Franklin. Immediately I appeared from an adjoining room, where my aunt, Truſty, the doctor, and the apothecary, with the innkeeper, were concealed. The door was left

left a-jar, that they might hear all that paſſed. I did not give my father time to recover his firſt ſurprize at the ſight of me, when I thank'd him for the honour of this viſit, and hoped he came to deliver me from my reſtraint. — 'Viſit 'you! replied he ſternly; viſit a parricide! '— no, I came to viſit a man, who ge-'nerouſly ſaved the life that you wanted 'baſely to deſtroy; and ſaved it too with 'the danger of his own life. — I am 'ſorry that ſo much virtue ſhould lodge 'under the ſame roof with ſo much vil-'lainy.' — I then threw myſelf at his feet, to beg he would not believe ſo harſhly of me; and that he would agree to my being bail'd, that I might, without being expoſed, make my innocence appear. He continued inexorable to all my ſubmiſſions, and ſwore, with the moſt bitter imprecations, that the gallows ſhould rid the world of ſuch a monſter, and revenge him for my unnatural villainy.

In ſaying theſe words, he rung the bell with great fury, that he might be rid of

my company, and the doctor appeared. He ſeem'd pleaſed with ſeeing him, and hop'd, that he had come to do ſervice to his good friend Mr. Franklin. — 'Yes,' replied the doctor, 'and I hope you are 'come with the ſame intention.' — 'That 'I am, ſaid my father, elſe I ſhould be 'as great a monſter as he (pointing to 'me) who ſtands there.' The doctor ſeemed to ſtart at this, and looking earneſtly in my father's face, aſked him, 'whether he did not find himſelf out of 'order that morning?' —— 'Yes, an'ſwered the other, I can't ſay but I am 'in ſeeing that villain (pointing again to 'me) ſo unexpectedly.' 'What a villain 'muſt you be, ſaid the doctor, to talk 'ſo of the man, who you own ſaved your 'life?' — 'You mean, who wanted to 'deſtroy my life, interrupted my father. 'No, no, doctor, this is all a palpable 'cheat, too palpable, — it will not do, '— aye, now I ſee it all, — the receipt 'too, — and the raſcal of a clerk, who 'decoy'd me hither.' —— 'Raſcal, me 'no raſcal,' ſaid the clerk, who by this time

time ſtood behind my father, with the apothecary and innkeeper) 'I came here 'upon an honeſt, fair deſign, upon your 'own advertiſement. — There ſtands Mr. 'Franklin, who you own ſav'd your 'life; deny it, if you dare, — if you do, 'I ſay you are an old ——.' 'Hold, '(ſaid I, clapping my hand before his 'mouth) there may be ſome miſtake in 'all this, — perhaps theſe gentlemen, 'pointing to the other two, may help to 'clear it up.'

My father, who had not obſerv'd them before, fell to rub his eyes, and ſwore that 'all the world were in a conſpiracy to 'cheat him, — and by G—d, I'll indite 'you all.' 'Then, pray, brother, (ſaid 'my aunt, coming out of the other room) 'put me in the indictment too, — as 'you are in a hanging humour; let 'us all keep company with your ſon; 'upon my ſoul, I can't help thinking, 'he deſerves hanging, better than any of 'us, for ſaving, as he did, the life of ſuch 'a worthleſs, good for nothing, old wretch.'

My

My father was now quite ſtunn'd, and ſinking backwards in a chair, aſk'd, what they all of them meant; and at laſt, promiſed to be calm, till they ſhould come at the end of their farce.

In ſhort, it was ſome time before the doctor, who aſſum'd the part of an orator on this occaſion, could convince my father that they were in earneſt. At laſt, by appealing to the apothecary and innkeeper, and by offering to ſend for the whole village, who ſaw the adventure, and by comparing circumſtances, his credulity was overcome. He drew me paſſionately to his boſom; he wept upon my neck, but without ſpeaking a word; and his action, though ſilent, was ſo expreſſive of tenderneſs and contrition, that they drew tears from the company. He begg'd Mr. Truſty to conduct them all, but my aunt, to his houſe, and they accordingly left us together.

My father's behaviour on this occaſion, proves to me, that where the ſeed of any one

one virtue is rooted in the heart of man, the ſame ſoil may be render'd productive of all the others. Or rather, I think, that every good principle puts forth certain ſhoots, that though inviſible at firſt, wait only for the criſis that is to puſh them into maturity. It is true, ſuch a criſis may never happen in a man's experience; and ſo thoſe ſhoots, as it were, rot in the heart, and periſh; and this I am convinced muſt have been the caſe with my father, had not the incident happened that I am now relating. But he happened to have within him a principle of gratitude, which is, perhaps, the nobleſt, and the moſt amiable ſpecies of juſtice; and it was no ſooner warmed, than it touch'd every tender fibre of nature, and awaken'd all the ſocial virtues of humanity. Never did man pour out his ſoul with more fervency, or father with more affection, than mine did on this occaſion. While he held me to his breaſt, I could perceive him ſhudder with the remembrance of the precipice, as he called it, that he had eſcap'd, and the whole of his demeanour

was

was ſo affecting, that his emotions for ſeveral minutes gave my aunt, and myſelf, ſome apprehenſions from their violence.

When he grew more compoſed, he requeſted the Tipſtaff (who, knowing he was ſafe, comply'd) to ſuffer him to carry me home. The firſt thing he did, when we got there, was to cloſet my aunt and me, to put us in mind, that to expoſe him could do me no ſervice, which he muſt be, if Mrs. Pinch, or Wilkie, were proſecuted according to their deſerts. 'It is 'true, continued he, as I always miſtruſted them, I took care to act ſo, that the 'law ſhould have no hold of me, even 'if they were detected; but at the ſame 'time, I ſhould be ſorry, to have the matter carried farther in any ſhape.' We agreed with great pleaſure, to what he propoſed; and Mr. Truſty, and the two delinquents, were immediately ſent for; and matters were ſo well and ſo ſpeedily managed, that the warrant was diſcharged that very night, and both Pinch and Wilkie diſappeared next day.

My

My father ſought, by the moſt unbounded indulgence, to make me amends for the hardſhips I had ſuffered. This gave me great uneaſineſs, becauſe, neither he, nor my aunt, would agree that I ſhould leave them, though I had ſtill a moſt violent inclination to travel, in order to divert the uneaſineſs of my thoughts, which every day encreaſed. As neither of them, in the courſe of nature, could live long, I thought it my duty to make their lives as comfortable to them as I could, and we lived, for two years, in the moſt uninterrupted harmony, when my aunt died, and my father ſurvived her only about fifteen months.

By their death, I found myſelf in poſſeſſion of upwards of five thouſand a year, but perceived myſelf more unhappy than ever. All the ſplendor in which I lived, ſerved but to awaken to my remembrance, in a more lively manner, the loſs I had ſuffered, and to give me the mortification of reflecting, with what ſuperior ſenſations I ſhould have taſted life, had I enjoyed it with Mrs. Cranwel.

I had ſpared no coſt nor pains in my enquiries after you, but all was to no purpoſe. It was not, till three years after you was gone, that I underſtood you had left a ſon in England; but with my moſt diligent enquiries, I never could gain any intelligence of either him, or his aunt.

About four months after my father's death, I had an opportunity of teſtifying my ſenſe of doctor Speedman's kindneſs, by preſenting his ſon to a conſiderable living, that fell into my gift; and I was happy enough to ſerve, in their ſeveral ways, all the other parties, that had been inſtrumental in my reconciliation with my father.

Having left Truſty my agent and ſteward upon my eſtate, I ſet out for France. My equipage was ſuited to the ſtate of my mind, rather than my fortune, for I travelled with only one of the footmen who had behaved ſo well to me at my father's, and who had been abroad before. I thought that this private manner of travelling,

velling, left me more at liberty to retire when I pleaſed within myſelf, which was then my ſupreme delight. I was, I thank God, always too deeply penetrated with ſentiments of religion, not only not to abhor the thoughts of putting an end to my own exiſtence, be it ever ſo miſerable, but of not doing all that could contribute to the prolongment of my life, while providence was pleaſed to continue me in this world. But though I was thus prevented from deſpair, I was far from taſting happineſs. All the pleaſure I knew, aroſe from my relieving the wants of others out of the money, which my diſpoſition would not permit me to ſpend, and my principles would not ſuffer me to ſave.

When I ſpeak of religion, I mean only the chriſtian, without confining it to any one mode of worſhip, or form of belief: In ſhort, I mean, ſuch a religion, as a ſenſible well-diſpoſed man muſt be of, if he never had had an opportunity of reading another book than the bible, and never heard another voice than that of nature.

Such

Such was, and ſuch is, my religion, and therefore my charity extends to all chriſtians, when their prejudices, zeal, or bigotry, do not make them trangreſs the bounds of humanity, or fall below the level of common ſenſe. When I met, therefore, with a man, who to virtue join'd moderation, I no more minded the mode of his religion, than I did the faſhion of his cloaths, and conſequently, made no ſcruple to keep company with ſeveral perſons in France, whom I found to be men of the character I have deſcrib'd.

Of theſe, Denain was my favorite. He had great learning, virtue and candour. His good ſenſe led him to ſmile at the fopperies of his own religion, and when I preſſed him on that head, he uſed to ſay, that all churches had their ſeveral faſhions. 'Why, ſaid he, ſhould not exteriors and 'forms in religion be as arbitrary, as in 'government, while eſſentials are preſerv-'ed?' — When I urged him with the abſurdity of ſeveral points, which the Romaniſts declared to be eſſential; he

uſed

uſed to laugh, and ſay, 'there was a great 'difference between declaring and believ-'ing.' In ſhort, he uſed in confidence to tell me, 'that he wiſhed, for more rea-'ſons than one, he had been born an 'Engliſhman.' When I came to be more intimately acquainted with him, I found that he poſſeſſed a large income, and that he employed it chiefly in works of charity, the particulars of which were unknown to all but himſelf.

One day, while I was in his apartments, I perceived he was more penſive than uſual. He only anſwered me with a ſmile, upon my preſſing him; and he aſked, 'Whether I would reſign myſelf, for one 'day, into the hands of a Roman catho-'lick.' I readily conſented, and as I kept a hired equipage, we went into my coach, which he ordered to drive to a little ſtreet in the ſuburbs. We were ſet down at a plain, tho' neat looking houſe, which, however, opened into ſeveral very handſome apartments backwards. 'You ſee, ſays 'my friend, when we were ſhewn into

'a

'a room, with what confidence I treat you.
'The owner of this houſe is a country-
'woman of yours, and a thorough here-
'tic; this is almoſt all I know about
'her, only that ſhe is one of the beſt
'women in the world, of which you may
'poſſibly have a ſpecimen, before you leave
'her houſe. Her huſband, about five
'years ago, went to Italy, and ſhe being
'young and handſome, and his buſineſs
'not permitting him to take her with
'him, he applyed to me for my advice,
'how to diſpoſe of her till his return.
'By means of a handſome preſent to a
'prioreſs of my recommendation, and an
'allowance of two thouſand livers a year
'for penſion or board, we prevailed to
'have her admitted into the houſe. Per-
'haps, added he, my friend, we are not
'ſuch ſpiritual cannibals in France, as you
'in England may imagine, for Mrs. Tra-
'cy was very little moleſted with ſolici-
'tations on account of her religion, while
'ſhe was in that convent; nay, on my
'conſcience, I am of opinion, that ſhe
'came out of it a greater heretic than

'she was when she went in. About seven 'months ago, she fell heiress to a large 'estate in England, and by her husband's 'direction, who is an Irish officer in the 'king of Spain's service, she left the con-'vent, and took this house.'

While my friend was going on, the lady herself appeared. She was very handsome, and entertained us with a mixture of French ease, and English good sense. I observed, however, that Denain and she withdrew, and about ten minutes after, he returned by himself. 'You may, 'said he, think there is somewhat mysterious, and not altogether polite in leaving you in this manner, but the reason 'must apologize for the rudeness. I will, 'therefore, in as few words as possible, 'let you into the occasion of my giving 'you this trouble. My friend, Mrs. 'Tracy, the mistress of this house, while 'she was in the convent, was sometimes 'visited by an English nobleman, who 'is her relation. That nobleman fell in 'love, or pretended to fall in love, with

'a

'a beautiful young lady, who had been
'placed there by her parents, for ſome
'family reaſons, and who, greatly againſt
'her inclination, was about to take the
'veil in a few weeks. I ſhall not enter
'into all the practices his lordſhip made
'uſe of to ſeduce the young lady. It is ſuf-
'ficient to ſay, that he prevailed, by the
'appearance of an honourable, though a
'violent, paſſion. She made her eſcape
'out of the nunnery, and throwing her-
'ſelf into his arms, he debauched her, as
'ſhe ſays, not upon the promiſe only, but
'the performance of marriage, which he
'pretended to be binding, and after the
'form of the church of England, but
'which ſhe is ſince convinced is invalid.
'Having gained his ends, he wanted to
'be rid of her, but finding that to be
'difficult, he baſely ſent information to
'the nunnery, were ſhe might be found.
'A good-natur'd fellow of a footman, by
'whom he ſent the letter, which was not
'ſubſcribed, gave her an intimation of his
'treachery, and yeſterday morning ſhe
'took refuge here with my friend. From

'what

'what I have ſaid, you may be ſenſible 'in what danger the poor lady is, and 'how tender a point I have to manage. 'I dare not, Mrs. Tracy cannot, ſerve 'her ſo effectually, as either of us would 'wiſh, and for that reaſon, I have made 'bold with your friendſhip, to try whe-'ther you are willing to aſſiſt her.'

Tho' I am not naturally extraordinarily fond of ſuch adventures, yet, at this time, my mind was in a ſituation, that diſpoſed me extremely to any courſe that had an appearance of danger, and I fell into my friend's views with great warmth, which was not abated by the firſt ſight of the lady in queſtion, when ſhe appeared at dinner. The footman, who had advertiſed her of her danger, had been turned off by his lordſhip on ſuſpicion, and was hired by Mrs. Tracy. He was an Engliſhman, and a proteſtant, and therefore the leſs lyable to betray her, and the only ſervant who waited at dinner. Madam Du Cange, for ſo I ſhall name the unhappy lady, to a very fine perſon, added much more vivacity, than I

thought was ſtrictly conſiſtent with her misfortune. I expected to have ſeen a tender young creature ſunk with grief, and fainting under affliction, her ſighs and tears interrupting her ſpeech, and her anguiſh making her wiſh to bury herſelf from the world. It is true, I did not ſee the reverſe of all this; but I ſaw a woman in high blood, and bloom of life, enter the room with a compoſure ſo decent, that her mind ſeemed to be employed rather in reſolving than repenting. In converſation, ſhe was free, though not forward, and I ſoon perceiv'd, that ſhe had not the unhappineſs of many of her ſex, to be diſtractedly fond of her undoer. She ſeemed, however, to have a juſt ſenſe of virtue; but I could eaſily perceive, that a diſlike of a nun's life, was the main motive of her elopement, and that ſhe was fired with the ſtrongeſt reſentment, againſt her perfidious betrayer. She repeated her ſtory with a glow of ſentiment, which made it appear ſo intereſting, that without the leaſt ſenſation of love, I commenced her champion; and I took down in my

pocket

pocket book, the name of her betrayer, who was no leſs than the lord N. ſon to the earl of S.

Here Mrs. Manby and her ſon looking on one another, with ſome emotions, Mr. Leſtrange ſaid, 'he hoped they had 'no particular intereſt in that nobleman 'and his family, for if they had, he would 'not proceed in his ſtory, as he had no-'thing to ſay of him, that was to his ho-'nour.' They begged him to proceed, and ſaid, that though they had heard of him, nothing he could ſay of him could affect them.

Next morning, reſum'd Mr. Leſtrange, I dreſſed myſelf as like a Frenchman as I could, and being ſure that I could not be diſcovered by my tongue, as well as that I was entirely unknown to his lordſhip, I found an eaſy admittance to his lordſhip's apartment. He came to me into a dining-room, and I could perceive that he left company in the next room, which was divided from the dining-room,

by a glaſs-door. Having aſked my commands, I told him without any heſitation, that I came from a lady, who had a right to be named his lady, that I was her near relation, and was determin'd to know what reparation he would make her, for the loſs of her honour. I could eaſily perceive, that his lordſhip was ſtartled at the firm manner in which I ſpoke, and that he look'd upon me as a man not to be trifled with. He anſwered me, however, like a man of ſenſe; that there was but one effectual reparation, that could be made to a woman, for the loſs of her honour; that it was out of his power to make it to madam Du Cange; but that he was willing to do every thing elſe. As I imagin'd I knew a good deal of the lady's diſpoſition, with regard to her lover, I did not affect any violent airs upon this occaſion, but anſwered in a manner, that indicated, there was room to treat upon reaſonable terms about an accommodation. In ſhort, I remonſtrated to his lordſhip, the terrible conſequences, even with regard to himſelf,

of

of the crime he had committed, both from the civil law of the country, and from the other relations of the lady, and told him very roundly, that it would be no ſlight pecuniary ſatisfaction, that could indemnify a young lady of family, for the falſe ſtep ſhe had made by his lordſhip's perſuaſion, not to mention the guilt, and the meanneſs of ruining her by a falſe marriage. His lordſhip heard me out with ſo great docility, that I began to have ſome ſuſpicions, which were confirmed by the hurry, and the noiſe of packing up, which I ſaw all about the houſe. I told him my apprehenſions, and that as I had reaſon to believe, his lordſhip's ſtay in France would be but very ſhort, he would not take it amiſs, if I inſiſted upon his making an end of the affair before we parted. His anſwer was, that he at preſent was engaged about ſome buſineſs, that required immediate diſpatch, but that in three hours at fartheſt, he would, upon his honour, meet me alone in a certain walk (which he deſcribed) of the Tuilleries. As he engaged his word of honour,

I accepted it; beſides, I was very deſirous of having inſtructions from Madam Du Cange, and her two friends, how to proceed.

Upon my return to Mrs. Tracy's, I found them all three waiting the event of my negotiation, and they approved extremely of all I had done. Mademoiſelle Du Cange told me, very ingenuouſly, that her being delivered from a diſagreeable reſtraint, rather than any affection ſhe had for his lordſhip's perſon, was the motive of her elopement. She own'd that this did not at all make lord N. the leſs criminal; 'but, added ſhe, I don't 'know whether I ought to venture 'to tell you, that was my choice now 'free, I would prefer living in Eng-'land (for I never will live in France, 'if I can help it) upon a proper allow-'ance, which I think is my right from 'him, to all the ſplendor I could hope 'for, in being his wife. Were my mar-'riage as firm as I thought it, what com-

'fort

'fort, or ſatisfaction could I have in liv-
'ing with a man, who hates me, and
'whom I don't love?' I did not ſet my-
ſelf much to combat thoſe ſentiments of
mademoiſelle Du Cange, which I knew to
be too well founded; and, in ſhort, we
agreed, that I ſhould inſiſt that his lord-
ſhip, who had an independent fortune,
ſhould find ſecurity before he left Paris,
for ſettling upon her five hundred pounds
a year, to be paid her in what place, or
manner, ſhe ſhould appoint.

Lord N. was punctual to his time, and
in a very few minutes we ſettled the pre-
liminaries, and went together to a notary
of my friend Denain's recommendation, to
give him inſtructions for drawing the ar-
ticles of ſettlement, in ſuch a manner, as
to be valid in England; which the nota-
ry, after ſome deliberation, undertook to
do; and it was agreed, that his lordſhip
next morning ſhould execute the deed,
which was, in the mean while, to be lodg'd
in my hands.

Next morning, I repaired according to appointment, to the notary's houſe, but upon my alighting out of my coach, I was preſented by an exempt with a lettre de cachet, and underſtood I was his priſoner. I was inſtantly carried before a magiſtrate, who received me with great affability; and led me into a room by myſelf to be examined. Here I underſtood, that the crime charged upon me was, my aſſiſting in carrying a young lady from a monaſtery, where ſhe had been placed by her parents, and concealing her ever ſince. The manner in which I cleared myſelf from this charge, ſeem'd to make ſuch an impreſſion upon the judge, that he had no doubt of my innocence; but he ſaid, he was ſorry to tell me, he was afraid he could not ſerve me. 'From what I can 'gather, ſaid he, the cardinal is concern-'ed in your affair, and you have enemies 'amongſt the jeſuits.'

This hint was more than ſufficient for making me ſenſible of my danger. The magiſtrate told me, that I muſt, for that night,

night, be contented to be lodged in the Baſtile, but that if I knew myſelf innocent of the charge, I had little or nothing to apprehend. This behaviour was ſuch, that I could not reſiſt a certain impulſe to make him my friend, and I told him ingenuouſly all I knew, only concealed the names and places of abode of my friends. He heard me with wonderful humanity and attention, and bade me not be uneaſy; for as he could not doubt the truth of all I had told him, he would that very evening, endeavour to procure an audience of the cardinal, in order to undeceive him; and that I ſhould very ſoon hear from him. Notwithſtanding all this encouragement, I could not be perfectly eaſy, when I was carried to the Baſtile; tho' my treatment there was by no means ſevere or confined.

Two days after my commitment, I was carried again to be examined before the ſame magiſtrate, who received me in a very auſtere, forbidding, manner. This ſurprized, but did not daunt, me. I told him,

I hop'd he had found out nothing ſince I had the honour of ſeeing him laſt, that could contradict what I had inform'd him of. He ſhook his head, and aſked me, 'whether I had not been accuſed in Eng-'land, of an attempt to murder my fa-'ther, and whether I had not fled to 'France, in order to avoid being brought 'to juſtice.' Though I could not help ſhuddering, when I heard this charge, yet I treated it with infinite contempt, and the magiſtrate was ſo puzzled at my behaviour, that he told me, that I was either the moſt injur'd, or the moſt impudent of all mankind. 'I am, continued he, wil-'ling to believe the firſt, and it ſhall not 'be long before you ſhall have an oppor-'tunity of clearing yourſelf; but have a 'care, the ſtep you are a going to take, 'will ruin you, if you are not innocent.' I ſmiled with ſuch an air of innocence at this menace, that he ſeem'd again to be inclined to favour me, and told me, that he had prevailed with the cardinal, to have me brought face to face with my accuſers, and to be heard before himſelf. I accep-

ted

ted of the propoſal with an unaffected joy, and the exempt took me into a coach to carry me to the cardinal's apartments at court, the judge promiſing to meet us there.

Being arrived at Verſailles, I was detained all that night in cuſtody of the exempt, and next day by noon, I was given to underſtand, that all parties being arrived, his eminency was ready to hear us. Being introduced into his apartment by a private ſtair, I found him alone with the judge, and he began to queſtion me in a manner, that gave me no unfavourable idea of his diſpoſition. My anſwers were ſo flatly contradictory of all he had heard to my prejudice, and I was ſo much befriended by the judge, that his eminency at laſt ſaid, he thought there was ſome miſunderſtanding in the affair, which could not be clear'd up, but by ordering father Le Sage, who waited in the next room, to be confronted with the priſoner. He accordingly made a ſign to one of his domeſtics to introduce the father; but what was my

aſtoniſhment, when I found that this ſame father, was no other than my old friend Mr. Wilkie, who was now equipped in the habit of a jeſuit.

I believe his eminency and the judge, who both of them eyed me very narrowly when Le Sage firſt appeared, found nothing in my countenance that indicated either guilt or confuſion. I accoſted Le Sage by his Engliſh name, and turning round to the judge, aſked him, whether that was the fellow, who had accuſed me? He adviſed me to behave decently, and hear what the father had to urge againſt me. Wilkie accordingly began with an affected reluctance to declare, 'that having had the honour to be introduced 'to the acquaintance of lord N. by means 'of the gentleman who accompanied him 'on his travels, he had one morning ſeen 'me at his lordſhip's houſe; and that from 'his lordſhip's account, he perceived, 'that I gave myſelf out for a perſon very 'different from what he knew me to be, 'which he thought was a ſufficient ground

'for

'for his ſuſpicion. That upon further 'talk with his lordſhip, he underſtood that 'I was concerned in ſecreting a young 'lady who had eſcaped from a nunnery, 'and that thoſe circumſtances, joined with 'that of my being accuſed of an inten-'tion to murder my father in England, '(which, ſaid Wilkie, I can prove to be 'true) had induced him to apply to his 'eminency for the lettre de cachet, that 'had ſecured me.'

The firſt thing I did, in anſwer to this medley of truth and falſhood, was to demand to be confronted with lord N. who was immediately called in. Our interview did not laſt very long after this. I aſked his lordſhip, whether he was willing to continue to abett the infamous proceeding of Le Sage, or to force me to have recourſe to the teſtimony of the notary, which would ſoon put an end to all farther diſpute. My lord appeared to be confounded at this queſtion, and the diſorder that Le Sage was under, grew ſo viſible, that the

the cardinal began to be under ſome apprehenſions for the credit of the order, which I found, however, he was reſolved by all means to ſupport. In order therefore to relieve them, he ſaid, that there might poſſibly be ſome private miſunderſtandings between my accuſers and me, that might not be ſo proper to inſiſt upon in that public manner, but that a lady, who was to be devoted to the ſervice of God, had been ſecreted from her monaſtery, and that, by all he could gather, he perceived I knew where ſhe was concealed; and deſired to know, whether I was willing to deliver her into the hands of either her relations, or the prioreſs of the monaſtery. 'If the lady, concluded he, 'is fully bent not to embrace a monaſtic 'life, ſhe muſt declare it judicially, be- 'fore you, Sir, (addreſſing himſelf to the 'judge) and in that caſe, ſhe muſt be 'delivered into the hands of her relations. 'The reſt, with the diſpoſal of the pri- 'ſoner, is left entirely to your manage- 'ment, and the courſe of law.'

I could eaſily perceive, that the judge, who was really a man of great knowledge, and great virtue, was going to reply to his eminency's concluſion; and, as he told me afterwards, to remonſtrate againſt the injuſtice of ſuffering Le Sage to eſcape, after the horrid charge he had brought againſt the priſoner; but the cardinal ſeeming to underſtand his meaning, declined hearing any more, and left us upon pretence of urgent buſineſs.

When he was gone, I told the judge, that as my character had ſuffered greatly in the preſent diſpute, I hoped he would give me an opportunity of clearing it. He ſhook his head, and ſaid, 'the parties who had attacked it, were too powerful for the civil juſtice of France, but that I was now diſcharged of my confinement upon my ſecurity in a large ſum, and giving my parole of honour, to be forth-coming in twenty-four hours after he ſhould require to ſee me.' I refuſed to accept of this indulgence, unleſs the lord N. was bound to the ſame terms,

terms, becauſe his name and preſence were abſolutely neceſſary for my being clear'd of what was laid to my charge. The judge thought that this was but reaſonable, and his lordſhip, after ſtarting vaſt difficulties, was prevailed upon to agree to my requeſt, that he might prevent more diſagreeable conſequences.

Upon my return to Paris, I immediately repaired to Mrs. Tracy's houſe, where I found her and mademoiſelle Du Cange in the utmoſt affliction, and my friend Denain appeared ſoon after, with grief and fear painted in his countenance. I informed them of all that had happened ſince we parted, and when I had done, mademoiſelle Du Cange broke into tears, with a tenderneſs, and expreſſion, which I had not believed her capable of. She acknowledged, that ſhe could not reflect with indifference on the riſques I had run, and that though it was worſe than death for her to think of returning to the monaſtery, yet, ſhe would venture upon any extremity, rather than expoſe me to farther dangers,

dangers, by concealing her. Mrs. Tracy and my friend Denain, made the like declarations, and I endeavoured all I could to recompoſe them all before I left them.

When I returned to my lodging, I began ſeriouſly to reflect upon the ſituation to which I had been led, from not conſidering conſequences; but I thought, let the worſt happen, lord N. muſt be glad to fulfil his engagements, for fear of being diſcovered, which was in my power to do; that Wilkie would be paſſive, that he might not be expoſed, and that all I had then to do, was to ſend mademoiſelle to England; but I was terribly miſtaken in my calculations.

As I had engaged to ſerve mademoiſelle Du Cange, my pride was picqued to make good my promiſe, in forcing lord N. to do her juſtice, though I could not, in my own thoughts, acquit him of behaving diſhonourably in my late adventure. I ſent to his houſe, but underſtood, that he had gone for ſome days to reſide at

at a village about twelve or fourteen miles from Paris. I wrote to him, and received one morning in anſwer, a moſt polite reſpectful letter, informing me, 'that 'though the ſtate of his health, did by 'no means permit his return to Paris ſo 'ſoon, yet he would eſteem it as a great 'favour, if he could have an interview 'with me, to clear his honour from ſome 'appearances, which might prejudice him 'in my eyes, and that we might take ſuch 'meaſures together, as might rid us both 'of the diſagreeable reſtraint we were un-'der.' The perſon who brought this letter, and, who ſaid, he ſerved lord N. delivered me likewiſe a verbal commiſſion, 'that as his lordſhip was often engaged 'in parties with the neighbouring gen-'tlemen, he would be glad to know, whe-'ther I could fix any particular time, that 'he might be in the way; and that he 'was ordered to wait upon me, to ſhow 'me the road.'

Many circumſtances concurred in making me believe, that his lordſhip was ſincere

cere for a reconciliation, but the chief was, that being ſtill upon his parole of honour, he could not leave France without diſcharging it, which he could not do without my conſent, and I being pretty much in the ſame ſituation, made me the fonder of every opportunity to get rid of it. I therefore accepted of his lordſhip's invitation, and told the ſervant, that I would order my horſe to be ready, and ſet out next morning. I then went to Denain, and putting the letter into his hand, told him my reſolution, and begged, that he would keep, and ſhew, it to mademoiſelle Du Cange and Mrs. Tracy, and make my excuſes, that buſineſs detained me from waiting upon them before I returned.

Next morning I ſet out, attended by none but the perſon who gave me the letter, for lord N's houſe in the country. I was entirely ignorant of the road, but imagined we had travelled more than the diſtance, when we ſtruck into a wood, where I could perceive only one path. My companion telling me, that we were

now in the ſhorteſt road, I ſuffered myſelf to be conducted a little way into the wood, when all on a ſudden, I was met by three gentlemen on horſeback, and in maſques, each well armed with a ſword and piſtols. One of them calling me to ſtop, I imagined at firſt they were highwaymen, and was putting my hand to my piſtols, when a blow I received on the back part of my head, from the butt end of a carabine which my companion carried, convinced me, that he was in the confederacy. The blow being ill aimed, did not ſtun me ſo much, but I turned my horſe's head, and diſcharging my piſtol at my attendant, he inſtantly dropt from his horſe, and I, being very well mounted, was in hopes to get to the main road, without being overtaken. I was within twenty paces of it, when a piſtol ball entered the flank of my horſe, and he fell. I had, however, the good luck to diſengage myſelf, and with my remaining piſtol in one hand, and my ſword in the other, I clapp'd my back to a tree, and told my purſuers when they came up, that they were

were welcome to my purſe, and what I had about me, if that would ſatisfy them. The foremoſt of the three anſwered, that they were not robbers, but that I muſt either go along with them, or loſe my life. I aſked, whether I could have any aſſurance for my life, if I did ſurrender: his reply was, "that I was a villain."—— By this time, the two others were come up, and having in vain commanded me to lay down my arms, they prepared to attack me, ſword in hand. My reſiſtance was deſperate, but I muſt have been overpowered, had I not heard the noiſe of travellers; upon which I called out for help, as loud as I was able. A gentleman, who ſeem'd to be an officer, and his ſervant, were immediately at my ſide, and we then engaged the others ſo warmly, that two of them rode off full gallop, and the third was left wounded upon the field. The two fugitives could not have ſo eaſily eſcaped, had not the wounds I received bled ſo faſt, as to require all the care my deliverer and his ſervant could employ about me, to keep me from fainting. They proved,

proved, however, not to be dangerous, and the ſervant, by applying a ſtyptic, which his maſter always carried about him, ſoon ſtopped the bleeding, ſo that I was in a condition to be carried back to an inn, which we had left about half a league behind us.

By this time, other travellers coming up, two returned poſt chaiſes were ſecured by the officer's ſervant, but I refuſed to ſtir without the priſoner, who had been left upon the field of battle. He had received a wound from my ſword in the thigh, and his maſque having dropt off, diſcovered him to be a well-looking gentleman about forty-five years of age. I committed him to the care of my deliverer's ſervant, who by the help of ſome of the paſſengers, got him ſeated with great difficulty in the chaiſe, while I waited for the reſult of a ſearch made by my deliverer, and others of the travellers, for the perſon who had dropt from his horſe. He was ſoon found, but dead; and directions being likewiſe given about remov-

ing his body to the ſame inn, I moved forward, in company with the officer.

But you may judge of my amazement, when I arrived at the inn, to ſee mademoiſelle Du Cange kneeling by the wounded gentleman, and tearing her hair, with the moſt paſſionate expreſſions of grief, and my friend Denain ſtanding by ſtupified with ſorrow. I deſired to ſpeak with him in another room, and he ſoon let me into the whole myſtery.

'When you parted, ſaid he, with me, 'I carried the letter you left with me, to 'Mademoiſelle Du Cange, who as ſoon as 'ſhe read it, pronounced you was a dead 'man, becauſe, by the hand, ſhe knew it 'to be wrote by Senon, the moſt worthleſs, dangerous wretch alive. He was, 'it ſeems, violently in love with her, and 'it was on account of her averſion to him, 'that her father, who is of one of the 'beſt families in the province, but ſomewhat impaired in his eſtate, and her brothers, forced her into the monaſtery. Her

'quickneſs

'quickneſs made her imagine what, from 'what I can ſee, was the truth, that the 'letter was a contrivance of them all, to 'be reveng'd of you, and to learn where 'ſhe is; and in order to prevent any fa-'tal conſequence, ſhe prevail'd with me 'to get with her into a poſt chaiſe, which 'ſhe ordered to drive to her father's. In 'our way thither we met him, in the con-'dition you have ſeen.'

I then, in as few words as poſſible, acquainted Denain of my adventure, and we concluded there was ſome myſtery in the affair, not yet cleared up. We were not long in the dark, for the pockets of the dead perſon, who was now brought to the inn, being ſearched, we found a letter ſigned by Wilkie, under the name of Le Sage. As I was no ſtranger to his hand, I knew I could not be miſtaken, and we ſoon came to the knowledge of the whole myſtery. Le Sage's letter was directed to Senon, and it informed him, that I (deſcribing me very minutely) was the perſon, who had taken mademoiſelle out of the monaſtery,

and that, being tired of her, I had endeavoured to put her off to lord N. that my villainous proceeding having been detected by him (Le Sage) he had procured a letter de cachet, by which I had been arreſted, but that, by means of great intereſt and money, I had been immediately diſcharged. For the truth of all this, he appealed to the teſtimony of lord N. who was an unexceptionable witneſs, and who, he ſaid, ſeemed to liſten to my propoſal only, that he might learn where the young lady lived, in order to reſtore her to her father and family. In another pocket, we found a note, with only the following words.

'Sir,

'I ſhall be very proud of complying 'with your deſire to meet you at the 'Golden Fleece, by ſix this evening, where 'you ſhall receive all the ſatisfaction I 'can give you of the truth of Le Sage's 'information. I am,

'Sir,

'Yours.'

By comparing theſe two letters together, we could not doubt, but the whole attempt was a villainous contrivance of Le Sage, aided by lord N. and haſtily executed by Senon, and the father, who joined in it from reſentment of the injury, that had been offered to his family. By this time, the ſurgeon, who had been ſent for, had dreſſed Monſ. Du Cange's wound. I was too much intereſted, not to be curious to know what had paſſed between him and his daughter. I therefore, with ſome difficulty, went into the room, where I found him upon the bed, and mademoiſelle ſitting by the bedſide, ſtill bath'd in tears. 'Approach, Sir,' ſaid he, when he ſaw me; 'I believe, from what my 'daughter has told me, I have been a 'little too haſty in this affair; Senon was 'deceived himſelf, and he deceived me.' 'Senon,' interrupted mademoiſelle, with heat, 'is a villain. I could have forgiven 'him the perſecution I ſuffered on ac-'count of his odious courtſhip, but I can-'not the aſperſions, he has thrown upon 'my honour. Yes, Sir, I did elope from

'the

'the monaſtry, and will do ſo again, if 'I can, — if ever I ſhould again have 'the misfortune to be in the inſide of 'one; for I hate the life, I hate the name, 'I hate the confinement of a nun?' —— This ſpeech was ſufficient to give me a hint of what had paſſed between mademoiſelle and her father; and therefore, I reſolved to be extreamly cautious how I ſpoke. I bewailed the unhappy accident that had befallen him, and pulling out Le Sage's letter, told him, I believed I knew how he had been impoſed upon. He ſeemed to own it; and by good fortune, we were here interrupted by the ſurgeon, who told us, that unleſs we all left the patient to reſt, he could not be anſwerable for his cure.

Upon this, I led mademoiſelle into another room, where the dead body lay full in her view. As ſoon as ſhe ſaw it, ſhe knew it to be that of Senon, which, indeed, I partly before ſuſpected, and it was viſible, that nothing but decency could have prevented her from expreſſing her joy. She

told me, that her father, being ſenſible of the wrong he had done her, and myſelf, was diſpoſed to a reconciliation with both, and that her two brothers, were the two other perſons, who had aſſiſted her father in his attempt upon my life.

From this laſt circumſtance, I conceived but a very indifferent opinion of the courage and honour of her brothers; and a thought immediately came into my head, to employ them ſo, that they ſhould become inſtruments of a revenge, which as a gentleman, I thought beneath me to take in perſon. I conſidered, that though they were not, perhaps, over-ſtocked with valour, yet they ſeemed to poſſeſs a large ſhare of the ſpirit of revenge; which, in the ſame cauſe, they would exerciſe upon one object, as readily as upon another, if both were equally obnoxious to their reſentment. I open'd ſome part of my deſign, which was againſt Wilkie, to mademoiſelle, who approv'd of it, but conjur'd me, to prevent by all manner of means, an interview between lord N. and

any

any of her family. 'They are ignorant,' continued ſhe, 'of my misfortune, and my 'happineſs muſt conſiſt in their remaining 'ſo. Should they come at the whole truth, 'one of theſe two things, I know, muſt 'happen. They will oblige my lord N. 'either by law or violence to marry me in 'reality, or they will put him to death. 'In the firſt event, I ſhould be compleat-'ly miſerable. His lordſhip will ſtick by 'me, in order to have his revenge, by 'making me as unhappy as he can; and 'by the ſecond, I ſhould loſe the proſpect 'of that independency, which I own, at 'preſent, forms all the happineſs of my 'life. For continued ſhe, what ſatisfac-'tion can I propoſe to live with parents 'and relations, whoſe words and looks, 'muſt every moment be reproaching me 'with my misfortunes.' I agreed to all ſhe ſaid, and we were now obliged to paſs the night, with ſuch accommoda-tion as the inn afforded.

Monſ. Du Cange had ſo good a night's reſt, that his wound appeared to be fa-

vourable, and the ſurgeon pronounced, that the worſt conſequence, if he managed himſelf properly, that could attend it, would be a little lameneſs, and, perhaps, not that. In the morning, I found mademoiſelle with her father, with two other young gentlemen, whom by their looks at me, and by their reſemblance to her, I immediately gueſſed to be her brothers. In effect it was ſo; for ſhe had ſent them word of what had happened, and the meſſenger, who was no other than my friend Denain, had his inſtructions ſo punctually from the father, that he ſoon found them out, and they obeyed the ſummons without heſitation.

It is needleſs for me to repreſent the various approaches, ceremonies, and apologies, that preceded a mutual reconciliation amongſt all parties, and it was, to all appearance, ſincere. The ſurgeon did not think monſieur Du Cange's wound could ſuffer him, for two days at leaſt, to be removed, and I made his illneſs a pretext, why I did not chuſe to enter upon any

buſineſs

buſineſs that related to the young lady, till her father was ſo very well recovered, as that the emotions it might occaſion, might not be dangerous to him. The ſurgeon approved highly of this precaution, but my real intent was to gain time, in order to concert matters with mademoiſelle, who perfectly entered into my meaning, ſo as that there might be no variation in our ſtory.

I readily owned, that I had been inſtrumental in delivering mademoiſelle from the nunnery, but denied with the moſt ſolemn aſſeverations, which the father, and the brothers, at laſt, ſeemed to believe, that I did it without any view of making her, either my wife or my miſtreſs. I owned myſelf to be a proteſtant, and that having occaſion often to viſit a lady, who was a penſioner in the ſame convent with mademoiſelle, I underſtood, that mademoiſelle was ſhut up there againſt her inclination, and that my conſcience led me to do all I could to deliver her from ſuch ſpiritual tyranny and perſecution. I here

enlarged upon the cruelty of the Roman catholic religion, in this reſpect, with great vehemence, which left them no doubt of my being in earneſt. I then added, that having effected mademoiſelle's deliverance, Le Sage, who is by birth an Engliſhman, and by profeſſion a jeſuit, had been bribed, and employed by a man of great fortune and quality, who had ſeen her by accident, to introduce him to her company. That I knowing the character of the nobleman, and that he was upon no very honourable footing, had prevented all Le Sage's attempts, which had irritated him ſo much, that after many attacks upon my liberty, he had form'd this plot, to inſtigate them to take away my life.

It happened fortunately enough for my deſign, that monſieur Du Cange, and his two ſons, though violent papiſts, were bitter enemies to the jeſuits, and therefore were diſpoſed to think the worſt of Le Sage. My good friend Denain, was very inſtrumental to my purpoſe; but ſtill the main difficulty was, how to have proper ſatiſ-

ſatisfaction of Le Sage, and yet to keep the whole tranſaction with lord N. a ſecret from monſieur Du Cange and his ſons. Upon converſing with the youngeſt of them, I found he had been bred to trade, and that he was deeply engaged in a clandeſtine commerce with England. This anſwered my wiſhes, and I immediately hinted, how obnoxious Le Sage was to the laws of his country. The Frenchman underſtood me with great quickneſs, and ſaid, if the jeſuit was ſuch a villain, as I repreſented him, he believed he could deal with him according to his deſerts; that he had, at that time, a very favourable opportunity in his hands. The firſt thing, replied I, to be done, to convince you of Le Sage's villainy, is to appeal to the teſtimony of lord N. for diſproving the villainous ſuggeſtion againſt me in Le Sage's letter. Lord N. added I, who is a libertine in his life and morals, may have ſeen mademoiſelle, and might have laid the plot with Le Sage, to get her out of my hands, and you ſee how ſucceſsful they have been with Senon. They readily a-

greed to the probability of all I ſaid, and I managed matters ſo artfully, that they became perſuaded, with a very little ſuggeſtion from me, that both their honour and their prudence, were concerned in avoiding any perſonal meeting with lord N. becauſe of the baſe deſign he had upon their ſiſter, and becauſe of his high quality and credit at the court of France, which would make it impoſſible for them to obtain a pardon, if they ſhould puniſh him as he deſerved. They therefore agreed, that they would be ſatisfied with a letter under his lordſhip's own hand, expreſſing his ignorance of their quality, and his ſorrow, if he had entertained any thoughts, that had been diſhonourable to their family.

Without loſing time, I immediately diſpatched my own valet, an active ſhrewd fellow, whom, by this time, I had ſent for from Paris, to get intelligence of my lord N. at his country houſe, and in three hours he returned, with an account, that his lordſhip had been gone for three days to Paris. I immediately judged how matters

ters went, and going thither poſt, I found he was at Verſailles, ſoliciting to be diſcharged from his recognizance, that he might return to England, his father then lying dangerous ill. I immediately repaired to the Engliſh ambaſſador, who I knew had ſaved him the trouble of finding ſecurity, by paſſing his word for his appearance. I candidly told his lordſhip, the whole of my ſtory, and he gave me as candid a hearing. He agreed with me, that his father's illneſs, was no more than a pretext, becauſe, had it been true, lord N. would have naturally applied to him. He has, however, continued his lordſhip, gone very artfully to work, and if he can procure from the cardinal a releaſe of my word of honour, which is not in the leaſt impoſſible, I don't ſee how you can detain him in France.

As I underſtood, that his excellency had a ſincere regard for lord N.'s family, I had no difficulty to perſuade him to take a proper concern in this affair, which was equally delicate and dangerous. He

immediately went into his poſt chaiſe, and taking me with him, he drove to the cardinal's apartment at Verſailles, where the firſt object I ſaw was lord N. and the judge, who had been concerned in our affair, and who had taken our recognizance, waiting in an antichamber. It was not hard for me to gueſs the buſineſs that had brought them together, but his lordſhip was ſtartled when he ſaw me enter. The judge told me he was waiting the order of his eminency, for diſcharging our recognizances, that lord N. might be at liberty to return to England, and there receive the dying breath of his father. Mean time, I knew not what had paſſed, between his lordſhip and his excellency; but the latter deſiring us to wait till he came from the cardinal, he left us.

Lord N. took this opportunity of endeavouring to clear himſelf from having any ſhare in the baſe attempt, which he heard had been made upon my life, and even affected to compliment me upon my eſcape. But as I was reſolved to come to the

the point with him, I ſoon gave him to underſtand, I was poſſeſſed of proof, that left no room to doubt of his being an accomplice in the aſſaſſination. He bluſhed, and aſſuming an air of ſincerity, owned he had been to blame through bad advice, but ſwore, that he did not think matters would have have been carried ſo far as they had been. I ſeemed to believe him, but required as a proof of his ſincerity, firſt that he would, in the preſence of the ambaſſador and the judge, fulfil the agreement we had entered into, to do juſtice to mademoiſelle Du Cange; and ſecondly, that he would let me know where to find Le Sage. As to the firſt of theſe conditions, he ſaid, he was very ready to fulfil it; and that he would, upon his word of honour, do his beſt to ſatisfy me in the other; adding, that Le Sage had been the villain who had miſled him in all the wrong ſteps he had taken.

By this time, his excellency had taken leave of the cardinal, and coming up to lord N. he aſked him, with a ſevere brow, how

how he came to make uſe of his name to his eminency to abett a falſhood. His lordſhip was ſo confounded at this blunt treatment, that I was obliged to interpoſe; and after ſome apology, acquainted his excellency, that his lordſhip being diſpoſed to do juſtice to all parties, I hoped his excellency would drop all retroſpect of what had happened, that his lordſhip might be encouraged in the preſeverance of his good ſentiments. The embaſſador ſeemed to approve of my apology, but told lord N. that the affairs he had been engaged in, if they were ſuch as I had repreſented them to be, were of the moſt ſerious nature, and that he could not anſwer for his ſafety one hour unleſs all the parties he had offended were made eaſy. He added, that he thought his own honour ſo much concerned, that he inſiſted upon being preſent, when the deed of ſettlement was made upon the young lady; that there might be no farther ſhuffling, and that it might be as valid as the laws of the two nations could make it; and that it was upon thoſe terms only, his lordſhip

ſhip was to expect to be at liberty to leave France.

I ſhall not take up your time in deſcribing all the formalities that were required, in compleating this tranſaction, which I contrived to have finiſhed to mademoiſelle Du Cange's ſatisfaction, without the knowledge of her brothers, father, or any of her family. But how was I aſtoniſhed, when returning to Mrs. Tracy's houſe, I ſaw in her huſband, the perſon of my brave deliverer. I know not how it happen'd, but, though I begged to know where I could pay my acknowledgments to him, he took advantage of the prodigious confuſion and conſternation we were in, to ſlip to Paris, without giving me any determined anſwer, but that he ſhould, at all times, be proud to ſee and ſerve me. I underſtood afterwards, that being charged with a particular commiſſion from the Spaniſh general in Italy to the court of France, and having learned from myſelf my name and habitation, he was unwilling to loſe more time, his buſineſs

ſineſs requiring the utmoſt diſpatch. We embraced one another; and never did I meet with a better friend, or a more compleat gentleman.

Mademoiſelle Du Cange had made ſo good uſe of the opportunities ſhe had with her father and brothers, that they looked back with horror on the ſcene that had lately happened, and indulged her in the violent deſire ſhe had to return to Paris, and to live with her dear friend Mrs. Tracy. Both ſhe, and they, had their ends in this. She, that ſhe might have an opportunity of executing ſome deeds in releaſe of all demands upon lord N. but her annuity; and they, that ſhe might make me their friend, all of them having very great reaſon to be apprehenſive of the conſequences, if their attempt upon me ſhould be known at court. Upon her acquainting me of their uneaſineſs, I not only myſelf promiſed her the moſt inviolable ſecrecy, but got Mr. Tracy to give me his word of honour, that he never would mention it, but as an encounter with ſome highwaymen who

who had beſet me, and who, at that time, peſtered all the roads in France.

The next ſcene I had to play, regarded Le Sage, whom I had ſo many reaſons for conſidering as a common nuiſance. Finding that his plot to murder me had not taken effect, he had ever ſince forborn to appear in public, but lord N. who I believe hated him, now that he could ſerve him no longer, gave me information where he was concealed at Bulloign, with a view of going over to England, if he ſhould find himſelf in danger in France, of which he had more reaſons to be apprehenſive than I was aware of. Beauclair, Du Cange's youngeſt ſon, as I have already mentioned, being bred to trade, had great dealings with the Engliſh ſmugglers; and upon my telling him where Le Sage was concealed, he immediately formed a deſign of carrying him on board an Engliſh ſhip that was lying off the coaſt of France, with convicts for America, and forcing him to enter himſelf as an indentured ſervant for ſo many years. This deſign

ſerved

ſerved their purpoſes, both of profit and revenge; and though it appeared at firſt impracticable, nothing was more eaſy in the execution. Beauclair, by means of his ſmugglers, found not only the very houſe where Le Sage lodged, but that he had engag'd them to carry him over to England. Having actually got him on board their veſſel, Beauclair came on board likewiſe, and very roundly laid before Le Sage, both his intention, and the reaſons of it, leaving him the alternative either of returning to France, or accepting his propoſal of going to America in the convict veſſel. Le Sage, without heſitation, accepted of the latter, and every thing was ready for carrying it into execution, when a much more intereſting incident fell out.

Having contracted the ſtrongeſt intimacy and friendſhip with Col. Tracy (for ſuch he was) we were one day diſcourſing upon the providence that had interpoſed in my behalf, in the affair of the aſſaſſination, and by accident, I happened to ſhow him Le Sage's letter to Senon. He had no

no ſooner caſt his eye upon the writing, than it ſtruck him with unexpreſſible ſurprize. He haſtily aſked where Le Sage was, and I giving him the beſt information I could, he earneſtly begged for the uſe of the letter, promiſing upon his honour, that it ſhould be returned to me, and that no uſe ſhould be made of it, but ſuch as I ſhould approve of. I immediately put it into his hands, without heſitation, and it proved, as you ſhall hear, the means of ſaving my life.

Col. Tracy had not left me above two hours, when I was ſeized by a party of archers, who ſerve as the town guard of Paris, and without any further explanation, I was hurried, like a common criminal, to one of the moſt diſmal priſons in the city. Next morning I was examined by the lieutenant de police, and what was my ſurprize, when I was confronted with Beauclair, who, like myſelf, was loaded as a malefactor with irons. I ſoon learnt the charge againſt us both, was for having conſpired together to betray the reverend father

father Le Sage, of the holy and venerable fraternity of the jeſuits, into the hands of the hereticks, by them to be carried and ſold as a ſlave in America. I plainly perceived by the behaviour of Beauclair, that his heart had failed him, and that he had not only confeſſed all that had happened at Bologn, but in hopes of obtaining favour, had loaded me with the blame of the whole, without mentioning the provocations I had received. I beg'd leave to be heard, which was granted me by the magiſtrate, but in ſuch a manner, as plainly indicated, he thought I could ay nothing that could avail me. I began with ſetting forth the character of Le Sage, and the provocations I had received from him, but was interrupted by the judge. 'Sir, ſaid he, thoſe are matters 'that are not now before me as a ma-'giſtrate, therefore, I will take no cog-'nizance of them; the reverend father 'may be as bad a man, as you ſay he is, 'but it is you I am to try; your crime, 'which I do not find you pretend to deny, is as atrocious as can be committed a-'gainſt

'gainſt laws, either divine or human. 'The reverend father is now in the hands 'of the ſuperiors of his own order, to 'whom the examination of his crime is 'left. But, this morning, I received an 'order from the ſecretary of ſtate, which 'I have now in my hand, (ſhewing it) 'for proceeding againſt you in the moſt 'ſpeedy, ſecret, and ſevere manner. The 'king himſelf has, I find, been inform-'ed by his eminency, of your crime, and 'I think now, you have very little to do, 'but to provide for another world, as you 'will be ſuffer'd to live but a very little 'time in this. You muſt paſs this night 'in the Baſtile; you may have what ſpi-'ritual aſſiſtance our church affords; but 'tomorrow ——.' Here, his ſilence left me to gueſs, what was to follow. He was, however, ſo juſt as to hear every thing I had to urge, and ſeem'd at laſt, to pity my caſe; but told me plainly, that all he could do, was to keep me that and the next night in a private priſon of his own, before I went to the Baſtile, where I muſt not expect to live above twenty-

four hours. I knew too many inſtances of the ſecrecy and ſeverity with which executions are performed in France, eſpecially when jeſuits are the parties offended, to hope for any farther indulgence, and thanked him for what he had ſhewed me. As I was about to retire, 'Hold, ſaid he, 'you may as well put into my hands 'the written evidence, which you ſay, you 'have againſt the reverend father.' I ſhould have heſitated at this demand, had it been in my power to have comply'd with it, becauſe I thought it might have proceeded from the jeſuits; but by good fortune, for me, as it afterwards happened, Col. Tracy had Le Sage's letter. I very ingenuouſly told the truth to the magiſtrate, who ſeem'd to be concerned at it, and to believe me; but repeated his advice, that I ſhould not flatter myſelf with any hopes of life. As my laſt effort, I begged leave to write to the Engliſh ambaſſador, who knew ſomewhat of the affair. He anſwer'd, he had foreſeen I would make that requeſt, and therefore was prepared to tell me, that it could not be granted. 'The

'King,

'King, added he, looks upon the matter 'as belonging entirely to the internal go- 'vernment of his own kingdom, and there- 'fore will not ſuffer a foreign miniſter to 'interpoſe in it, nor will he in any reſpect, 'depart from the ordinary courſe of ju- 'ſtice, that is practiſed on ſuch occaſions. 'Our government never proceeds in this 'manner, but upon evidence, that is very 'ſatisfactory to themſelves.'

When he had finiſhed this ſpeech, which I conſidered as my ſentence of death, I left the room, and by the lieutenant's or- der, was conducted to a more comfortable priſon, where my irons were taken off, but four of the archers remained with me day and night, and were all the company I ſaw for forty eight hours. I was then conducted about midnight to the Baſtile, where I was lodged in a very diſmal place, and waited upon by a prieſt. Though I was reſolved to decline his aſſiſtance, yet I enter'd into converſation with him; and he told me, that my friend Beauclair had ſuffered death that morning upon his own con-

confeſſion, after being examined privately by the lieutenant de police; he then, with ſome tenderneſs ſaid, that it was my turn next morning, and made me an offer of his aſſiſtance. I thanked him, but declined it in the handſomeſt manner I could, upon which, he retired for about half an hour, and came back with another perſon, who held in his hand a paper, which proved to be a warrant for my execution next morning by ſix o'clock, it being then in the month of March. The eccleſiaſtic then renewed his offer of aſſiſtance, which I again declined; nor do I believe, I ſhall ever be ſo well prepared for death, as I then was, neither ſhall I trouble you, madam, with repeating to you the only ſubject of regret I had, in leaving this world.

I don't with any deſign of beſpeaking your admiration of my courage, tell you, that I was ſo little diſcompoſed at the approach of death, that next morning I was awakened before day, from a ſound ſleep, by a perſon, whom by his looks, and

and the nature of his meſſage, I ſoon knew to be an executioner, and who deſired me to make ready. I own, that I cannot attribute the compoſure, I was then in, to natural fortitude, nor the indifference I ſhewed for life, to the ſtrength of my reaſon. I believe, they proceeded from a very obvious principle; which was, that having no manner of proſpect of eſcaping, it was as cheap (if I may uſe the expreſſion) to die bravely, as meanly, and perhaps, a ſecret indignation had ſome effect upon my conduct. Be that as it will, while I was making ready for the block, I was ſurprized at hearing an unuſual noiſe upon the ſtairs, and a buſtle below, which at firſt, I thought, to be owing to ſome company coming in to ſee me die. But all on a ſudden, the doors of my priſon (which was ſituated at the very top of the caſtle) burſt open, and and an officer, who ſeemed to be of ſome diſtinction, very courteouſly deſired me to follow him. I obeyed, and I own, that I was even then, weak enough, to be pleaſed with the thoughts, that I was to have

any one, who had the appearance of a gentleman, to be preſent at my death.

But the gentleman conducted me to a moſt magnificent apartment in the firſt floor, where I was ſurprized, at being introduced to the lieutenant de police, the principal ſecretary of ſtate, and my friend Col. Tracy. The latter immediately ran up to me, and embracing me, could not help ſhedding tears, which I thought he did in commiſeration of my fate. I was beginning to uſe arguments to comfort him, and ſome expreſſions, that ſtrongly indicated my contempt of death, when the lieutenant de police coming up, took me by the hand, and told me I was no longer a priſoner. It was, perhaps, lucky for me, that, at firſt, I did not comprehend his meaning, and my ignorance for ſome moments kept me in a ſuſpence, that broke the force of any extraordinary emotion, that I might have diſcovered upon ſo unexpected a reverſe of fortune. I was not long, however, in this dilemma, but was ſoon convinced

vinced of the truth of what the lieutenant told me.

I muſt be ſincere enough to acknowledge, that, at this criſis, I found myſelf to be the weakeſt of mortals. Half a moment before, my thoughts, after making, as I imagined, my peace with heaven, were chiefly employed, how to ſuit my behaviour to the character of a decent, firm, magnanimity, and I even ſecretly triumphed in the thought of the impreſſion, which it would leave upon the ſpectators. But no ſooner was I aſſured of ſafety, than the love of life recurred upon my mind, with double force, and I reflected on death with a horror, that I believe, affected my behaviour. The company, however, perceiving I was under ſome agitation, we were all ſeated, and the lieutenant de police opened the whole myſtery at large; but I ſhall only repeat to you, the ſubſtance of his diſcourſe.

'After the villain Le Sage, ſaid he, 'had been carried aboard the convict veſ-

'ſel, the cuſtom-houſe officers receiving 'information, that ſome contraband goods 'were on board; an officer with a file of 'ſoldiers, were ſent to ſearch her very nar-'rowly, which gave Le Sage an oppor-'tunity of acquainting the officer with 'his ſituation, and the manner in which 'he had been trepanned; upon which the 'officer carried him on ſhore, and ſeized the 'ſmugglers, whoſe account agreeing in 'the main with that of Le Sage, an ex-'preſs was immediately ſent to the car-'dinal, who gave orders for ſeizing you 'and Beauclair, and putting Le Sage in-'to the hands of his eccleſiaſtical ſupe-'riors, with whom, I ſuppoſe, he found 'means to make his peace, at the expence 'of a ſevere pennance. I cannot help 'owning, that when I examined you, I 'looked upon your ſaying, that you de-'livered Le Sage's letter into the hands 'of this gentleman (pointing to Col. 'Tracy) as a meer evaſion. But Beau-'clair at his death, having made a de-'claration, which correſponded exactly 'with yours, juſtice and humanity oblig-

'ed

'ed me to ſearch for the colonel, whom
'I ſoon found at this gentleman's office
'(meaning the ſecretary of ſtate) with the
'letter lying before them, and a warrant
'ready drawn for apprehending Le Sage,
'wherever he could be found. All
'this appeared myſterious to me, till I
'came to underſtand, that the ſecret com-
'miſſion, which the colonel was charged
'with from the Spaniſh general, was a
'complaint, that all his meaſures had been
'diſcovered to the enemy, by means of
'a correſpondent they had in France,
'whoſe intercepted letters were in the co-
'lonel's poſſeſſion, but ſubſcribed with a
'falſe name. The writing being com-
'pared with the letter in your poſſeſſion,
'appeared to be the ſame hand, which
'occaſioned the colonel's application to
'have Le Sage ſeized, and being ſhown
'the torture, he readily confeſſed, that
'he was in the enemy's pay, and that
'he had gained his intelligence, by means
'of his intimacy with others of his order,
'and by himſelf being confeſſor to ſome
'perſons, who were in the ſecret of the

'operations, that had been concerted be-
'tween us and the Spaniards. We loſt
'no time in laying before the government
'your innocency, as Beauclair had taken
'upon himſelf, at his death, all the ſcheme
'of conveying Le Sage on board the Eng-
'liſh ſhip, and we ſoon obtained a releaſe,
'which as a ſmall attonement for your
'hardſhips, we here preſent you with.'

This was the ſubſtance of a very long diſcourſe, delivered by the lieutenant, on this occaſion. The reſult was, that I took a ſpeedy reſolution to leave France. The firſt uſe I made of my liberty, was to return with Col. Tracy to his houſe, where I was received with the utmoſt tranſports of friendſhip, by his lady and mademoiſelle Du Cange, who, as yet, knew nothing of her brother's death, ſo ſecretly are matters tranſacted in France. As to Le Sage, all I could learn of him, was, that he was cloſely confined, and that great intereſt was making, for returning him into the hands of his ſuperiors, who had promiſed to keep him priſoner upon bread and water for life.

Col.

Col. Tracy having thus ſucceſsfully executed the principal part of his commiſſion, now prepared to return to England with his lady, to take poſſeſſion of her fortune, and I determined to accompany them, that I might ſettle my affairs there. But the ſituation of mademoiſelle Du Cange, was very particular; ſhe could not enjoy her fortune in France, or ſhare it with her relations, without diſcovering her ſecret, which ſhe knew would make both them and herſelf unhappy. At the ſame time, it was worſe than death to her, to think of remaining in France under the ſeverity of a family, whoſe pride and poverty, expoſed her hourly to the ſame mortifications, ſhe had already eſcaped. She aſked my advice, but I very frankly told her, that I hoped ſhe would excuſe my intermeddling any farther in an affair, that had already coſt me ſo dear. She owned ſhe could not blame me; and, after ſome conſultation with Mrs. Tracy, ſhe wrote to her father, for leave to accompany her to England. Monſieur Du Cange received her letter, and the account of his

ſon's death, much about the ſame time, and having ſome buſineſs in Paris, he appeared at Mrs. Tracy's in deep mourning, and was the firſt, who acquainted his daughter of her brother's fate. Her ſorrow for that, did not, however, prevent her from renewing her ſollicitation, for leave to viſit England, but ſhe found her father inflexible to all her entreaties. The truth was, that he had received propoſals from a neighbouring gentleman, who wanted to make her his wife, and who (though a little ancient) was accounted to be immenſely rich. He did not in the leaſt queſtion of his daughter's readily embracing a match ſo much for her advantage; but, when he told her of it, he fell into a great rage, when ſhe demanded eight days to conſider of it; in ſhort, he ſwore bitterly, he would give her but twenty-four hours, and that, if ſhe did not, in that time, agree to his propoſal, he would either again ſhut her up in the monaſtery, or carry her to the country, where ſhe ſhould lead a life, worſe than that of the moſt ſevere recluſe; upon

on ſaying this, he roſe, and left her abruptly.

Next day, ſhe apply'd to me, when I was at Col. Tracy's, under the ſymptoms of diſtreſs, which, you may be ſure, was greatly aggravated by her fear, that ſhe could not for many weeks, or even days, conceal from the world, the proof of her intimacy with his lordſhip. I own, this ſituation gave a very new turn to my way of thinking; and conſidering all the circumſtances of her condition, I could not in my own mind conſider her, in any other light, than as the lawful wife of lord N. and that ſhe bore about her, his legitimate offspring. I almoſt repented the aſſiſtance I had given her, in cutting herſelf off from ſo ſhining a proſpect. The reflection upon that, made me retract the caution I had propoſed to obſerve, and I offered her all the aſſiſtance that was in my power, conſiſtent with my honour and ſafety. At firſt, ſhe propoſed to eſcape privately to England; but I told her, I could by no means, be acceſſary to any

project of that nature. She then desired me to assist her with some money, for which she would give me a draught, payable out of her annuity in England. With this money, she proposed to go into a nunnery of her own chusing, where she knew she could be safe from the search of her family, and could, with privacy, be brought to bed. As I was no stranger to the power of money in France, upon such occasions, I liked this project; and readily advanced her three hundred guineas, which were punctually afterwards paid me in England; and she left me, with great satisfaction.

She had not been six hours gone, when her father came to my lodging raving like a mad man, and enquiring for his daughter. I told him, I could give him no satisfaction; but that she had left Col. Tracy's that morning, in a hackney coach. This hint was enough; for he immediately procured an order, for having all the coachmen in that quarter examined. As this could not be done all of a sudden, it was two days before the examination

nation was compleated; and at laſt, one of the fellows confeſſed, that he had ſuch a morning, carried a young lady to the gate of a certain nunnery, naming one of the richeſt in France, and where none but perſons of great fortune can be admitted, and that upon ſuch terms, as procure them treatment and attendance, equal to the condition of the higheſt quality. But you are to conſider, that mademoiſelle Du Cange was now in poſſeſſion of an independent fortune, of upwards of ten thouſand livres a year, an eſtate, which few of the greateſt ladies in France could boaſt of, and that ſhe had in her pocket, ſix thouſand livres in ready money.

As ſhe had both ſenſe and addreſs, ſhe made a proper uſe of thoſe advantages. In the firſt place, ſhe candidly related her whole ſtory to the lady abbeſs, and ſecured her friendſhip, by a very handſome preſent, and promiſe of a large penſion, while ſhe continued in her houſe. Her ladyſhip knew the world too well to doubt of any thing mademoiſelle, who ſhew'd

her her writings, ſaid; and immediately obtained an order from the archbiſhop of Paris, which ſecured her from all ſearch, or demands of her relations.

This was very neceſſary, for her father no ſooner heard of her being there, than he fell into a dreadful paſſion, from the apprehenſion, that ſhe was gone thither through deſpair, and as a ſervant, as he knew, that it required a much greater ſum, than ſhe, or he poſſeſſed, to get admittance there in any other ſhape. The thought of this, hurt his pride ſo greatly, that taking his ſon along with him, he hurried to the nunnery, and demanded to ſpeak with the lady abbeſs. Tho' ſhe received him in great form, he treated her very abruptly, and aſked, whether a young woman (naming his daughter) had not forgot, what ſhe owed to her name and family, ſo as to put herſelf under her ladyſhip's protection. She anſwered him pretty ſmartly, that ſhe had the happineſs to have ſuch a young lady under her protection, againſt the perſecu-

tion

tion of a very injurious father and family, but that ſhe valued her much more on account of her virtue and good ſenſe, than of her birth and quality, in which ſhe was inferior to all the ladies in the houſe. Du Cange was ſo much confounded at this anſwer, that he had not courage to declare his relation to mademoiſelle, but requeſted to ſee her; upon which the lady abbeſs told him, that ſhe did not chuſe to diſturb mademoiſelle, who was in her own apartment, but that, if he would ſend in his name, he might poſſibly be admitted to the favour of ſeeing her.

Du Cange and his ſon ſtood amazed at all this, but much more, when they were accoſted by a lady dreſſed like a princeſs, who ſaid, ſhe had the honour to ſerve Mademoiſelle Du Cange, and if they pleaſed, would carry in their names to the lady. The elder Du Cange inſtantly told her that her father, and her brother, were come to exact an account of her undutiful behaviour. But the waiting woman, with

with a low curtſey, ſaid, ſhe durſt carry in no ſuch meſſage; in which ſhe was encouraged by the lady abbeſs. 'Sir,' ſaid the latter to Du Cange, 'there is no lady 'within theſe walls, who is not in the way 'of her duty, and a duty much ſuperior 'to that ſhe owes to an earthly parent. 'Your daughter has wiſely choſen them, 'as her refuge from a treatment, which, 'as a father, you have no right to inflict 'upon her, and if you inſiſt farther in 'this ſtrain, our holy church knows how 'to do her juſtice; mean while, I will 'myſelf go and ſee, whether mademoi-'ſelle is diſpoſed for ſeeing you;' and in ſaying theſe words, ſhe left him, without much ceremony.

The father, and the brother, were at laſt introduced to mademoiſelle's apartment, with great formality. They were aſtoniſhed at its magnificence, and the reſpect, with which, ſhe was treated, but they ſoon found themſelves diſappointed in their aim. Though nothing could be more unexceptionable than the young la-

dy's

dy's behaviour, ſhe continued firm againſt all their menaces, in her reſolution of remaining in the nunnery; and the lady abbeſs having hinted, that ſhe had ſome thoughts of profeſſing herſelf a nun, they muſt not take it amiſs, if after this, they were not admitted to her, without her particular leave.

This intimation rendered Du Cange almoſt furious, and he aſked, who durſt detain his child from him? Upon this, the lady abbeſs produced the archbiſhop's order; and finding they could not better themſelves, they took their leave. All this I had from mademoiſelle afterwards; for I was about that time making every thing ready to go over to England, along with the colonel and Mrs. Tracy. Our paſſage was very happy, and after I had ſettled all my affairs there, finding no ſatisfaction in living in a country, where I had ſo many remembrancers of unhappineſs, I took a reſolution of ſeeing a campaign, or two, with my friend the colonel. Notwithſtanding all the diſpatch I could make,

it

it was ſix months before I could order matters, ſo as to be at liberty to leave England. During that time, I had many opportunities of meeting with lord N. and we even contracted a kind of intimacy together, which was owing to a very whimſical cauſe. His father was preſſing him to match into a family greatly againſt his inclination; he neither liked the alliance, nor the lady. This ſituation revived in his mind, great part of the affection, he once entertained for mademoiſelle Du Cange, and he frankly acknowledged, that he had a certain pleaſure in diſcourſing with me about that young lady. I encouraged him in thoſe ſentiments, and told him, that I could look upon her in no other light, than as his lawful wife, however they had been ſeparated through motives of conveniency, or intereſt. As moſt of the bad things his lordſhip had been guilty of, had been owing to the influence of the villains, who beſet him, I found he was far from being naturally of a wicked diſpoſition, and he heard me ſometimes

times talking of mademoiſelle Du Cange, with tears in his eyes.

One morning, after we had breakfaſted together at my houſe, a ſervant told me, that two ladies, who had alighted out of an hackney coach, wanted to ſee me in the next parlour. I inſtantly waited upon them; but you will judge of my ſurprize, when I tell you, I found one of them to be Mrs. Tracy, and the other mademoiſelle Du Cange. As the latter accoſted me, with all the freedom and elevation of voice, that is ſo natural to her country, it was ſoon overheard by lord N. in the next room. He could not reſiſt it, but ruſhing in, he almoſt ſtifled her, before ſhe well knew, who he was, or could diſengage herſelf from his arms.

The interview that immediately followed, I own to you, puzzles all my philoſophy to account for it; nor, with all the pains I have taken, am I yet ſatisfied in my own mind, whether mademoiſelle was to be commended or blamed for her behaviour.

haviour. She had no frown upon her face, no languiſhment in her eye, and no faulter in her ſpeech. At the ſame time, ſhe expreſſed great affability, compoſure, and good breeding. Her lover fell upon his knees, and ſhe permitted him to kiſs her hands, with the utmoſt fervour. He implored her pardon, and confeſſed his follies, and injuſtice to her, and offered to make her every reparation in his power, and to marry her, if ſhe pleaſed, before night. She thanked him, in terms ſo polite, and yet ſo guarded, that her diſcourſe was a meer riddle. At firſt I took that to be a kind of a capitulation, previous to her ſurrender; and I fairly entered the liſts, as ſecond to his lordſhip. But, in the end, ſhe beat us both out of the field, by meer dint of argument, and without ſaying a rude, or diſobliging, thing to either. 'The ſham marriage, ſaid ſhe, 'my lord, that paſſed between us, was 'kindly permitted by heaven, to make 'me happy in my own thoughts, as there 'can be no guilt, without intention, in 'the eye of heaven. I am ſatisfied I am

'your

'your wife, but, in the eye of the law, 'I am pleaſed that I am not. Your lord-'ſhip has made me happy in my circum-'ſtances; I was happy in my mind be-'fore. I ſhall always conſider you, as the 'beſt of my friends; but I cannot admit 'a ſubſequent act of marriage, without, in 'ſome meaſure, admitting the invalidity 'of the preceding; which I will avoid, 'as I would the wreck of my peace and 'reputation.' Such was the ſubſtance of her diſcourſe. But after his lordſhip was gone, I attacked her, upon a more tender point. I repreſented to her the wrong ſhe did to her child, by not compleating her marriage. She told me, that ſhe had conſidered that point; and ſhe owned, that ſhe might be prevailed upon to comply with a ſecond ceremony, if it could capacitate the child, to inherit his father's eſtate and titles in England; but that as it could not, ſhe did not think it worth while to riſk the happineſs of being ſingle and independent, on that account. In ſhort, all my arguments, and his lordſhip's courtſhip, were in vain. What compleat-

ed

ed my aſtoniſhment at her conduct was, his father, the Earl of S. finding him utterly averſe to match with the lady he intended for him, made it his buſineſs to find out, whether he had any other attachment, and ſoon diſcovered his affair with mademoiſelle Du Cange. He even got acquainted with, and viſited her, and was ſo well pleaſed with her behaviour, that at laſt, he joyned his ſon in his courtſhip, and preſſed her moſt earneſtly to become his daughter-in-law. But all was to no purpoſe.

Having diſpatched my affairs in England, I went abroad with colonel Tracy, where I ſerved two campaigns, and ſpent the winter at the courts of the princes, in whoſe army I ſerved. It was this gave me that knowledge of life, you have been ſo partial to, and my fortune was ſufficient to gratify me in all the elegancies of life I could deſire; for I ſtruck into few or none of its pleaſures. All the variety of living was at laſt exhauſted to me, and then the hurry of company I lived

ſived in, became intolerable. I kept very little correſpondence with England, but to draw for money, and to enquire, whether it was poſſible to make me again in love with life, by hearing of my dear Mrs. Cranwell; but finding all my enquiries to be in vain, I cultivated an intimacy with a French gentleman, who had an intereſt in this iſland, and from him, I purchaſed the plantation you ſee. During all this time, there was no interruption in my friendſhip with the worthy father Denain; and at laſt, I prevailed upon him to review the grounds of his religion. He did it with candour, and a ſincere deſire of being put into the paths of truth, and the ſame candour obliged him to own, that he had no objection to the doctrine of the Engliſh church. I preſſed the matter upon him, and prevailed with him to viſit England, where he took orders in our church, and I thought myſelf happy, that my fortune was ſufficient to make him amends, for the preferments he had abandoned in his own country, from which he conſidered himſelf as an exile.

At laſt, at my earneſt requeſt, he agreed to attend me to this ſolitude, where his converſation is all the happineſs I have known, for ſome years. He is the clergyman I mentioned to you, and it is his illneſs, that has ſo long delayed my happineſs.

End of Mr. LESTRANGE's *Adventures.*

Mrs. Manby, and her ſon, were now leſs charmed by the beauty of the place, than by the extraordinary events, that filled the life of Mr. Leſtrange, and ſome time was ſpent in his anſwering a variety of queſtions, which his adventures produced. Next day, the good clergyman was ſo well recovered, as to be able to make them a viſit, and join Mr. Leſtrange and Mrs. Manby together in matrimony. Nothing remarkable happened farther in this delightful ſolitude, which Mr. Morgan (for her huſband now reaſſumed his real name) quitted with the utmoſt regret. Mr. Morgan having now no reaſon to be out of humour with the world,

disposed of all his effects, that he could not conveniently carry with him, to one of the very few French Gentlemen, who lived upon the island, and taking the worthy clergyman with them, they arrived safe in England.

THE

THE MOTHER: OR, THE HAPPY DISTRESS.

BOOK V.

MR. Darking ſeemed to be equally the object of his father-in-law's as of his mother's attention. His frequent converſations with Mr. Morgan, increaſed his deſire of knowledge, but at the ſame time gave him a turn for ſolitude, where he could better enjoy his ſtudies. His father-

father-in-law and mother, having ſettled upon him, a very handſome independent fortune, left him at his own liberty; and that he might be quite diſincumbered within himſelf, he took a ſmall, but elegant, houſe, upon the banks of the Thames, a few miles from London. His mother and father-in-law, had often preſſed him upon the ſubject of marriage. He was far from ſhewing any diſinclination to that ſtate, and promiſed them ſincerely, that as ſoon as he could find an object, with whom he thought he could be but tolerably happy, he would enter upon it directly, but, in the mean time, he ſaid he could not ſuſpend the courſe of life, which he had adopted for the improvement of his underſtanding, to employ it in queſt of a miſtreſs.

Early, one morning, as he was ſauntering through the delightful fields that bordered the Thames, he imagined he ſaw a ſmoke greater than ordinary, burſt from the roof of a houſe, in the village where he lived. He ran haſtily towards the houſe, and meeting with the footman at

the entry, watering ſome flower-pots, he told the fellow of the danger. But he would not believe it, and ſtepped into the ſtreet to ſee, what was the matter. When he was gazing about him, Darking was alarmed by two dreadful ſcreams from female voices, and without waiting, he immediately ruſhed up ſtairs. The fire, by this time, had communicated itſelf to the lower apartments, which were full of ſmoke, and the ſcreaming ſtill increaſing, proved, that the objects within, were in the moſt imminent danger of periſhing by the flames. Notwithſtanding the thickneſs of the ſmoke, he preſſed forward to the place, from whence the ſcreams came, and had the good fortune to lay hold of a female body that was panting for life; looking behind him, he ſaw the ſtair-caſe all in flames, ſo that there was no returning, and therefore, he was obliged to take refuge in a back room, where the windows were darkened. He inſtantly threw them open, at which he could perceive, that his fair charge, whom he ſtill held under one arm, diſcover'd ſome

ſigns

ſigns of life, and calling out, the people of the village, who were now alarmed, applied ladders to the windows, and eaſed him of his burthen, juſt at the time when he was ready to ſink under it, thro' the oppreſſion of the heat and ſmoke he had ſuffered. Recovering himſelf, however, he only had time to order the people, to take care of the lady, and they imagining her to be a relation, or acquaintance of his, carried her to his houſe.

Darking, upon inquiry, finding the lady to be a ſtranger in the village, was unwilling to leave the houſe, which ſeemed to be nobly furniſhed, to the mercy of the firemen, and the mob; who had got about it. Beſides, he was anxious to know, what had become of the other female; being perſuaded, that he heard two voices. It was not long before he underſtood, that ſhe was found ſuffocated, in the fore room, probably, in attempting to open a window, for the eſcape of herſelf and her miſtreſs, which ſhe could not effect, through the confuſion and op-

preſſion ſhe had been under. By this time, the town's people were aſſiſting in carrying out the furniture, and Darking, obſerving a ſmall pair of back ſtairs, ventured up, and found they led to a cloſet. He inſtantly burſt open the door, which proved not to be very ſtrong, and found the cloſet furniſhed with ſome miniature paintings, of exquiſite beauty, a ſet of dreſſing plate, and a ſmall curious tortoiſeſhell cabinet richly inlaid, upon a table. He ſtuffed into his pockets all the paintings, and ſecuring the cabinet, and as much of the plate, as he could carry off, he left the reſt, to be taken care of by a gentleman of the village, whom he knew, and who had followed him up ſtairs. A fire engine had now been brought, and the flames having conſiderably ſubſided, Darking perceiving himſelf fatigued and tired, made the beſt of his way homeward, with the effects he had ſaved. Being arrived at his houſe, he underſtood, from one of his maids, that the lady, whom he had ſaved from the flames, was above ſtairs, attended by the apothecary, who had blooded

blooded her, but that he had diſpatched an expreſs to London, for the aſſiſtance of an eminent phyſician, her recovery being very doubtful. Darking, upon this, gave orders, that every thing about the houſe ſhould be kept quiet, and that nothing ſhould be wanting for the lady's accommodation. He then went to reſt in a back ground room, and after ſleeping two or three hours, when he awoke, he found that the phyſician was arrived from London. Hearing his name, Darking knew him to be of his acquaintance, and ordered his maid, when ſhe had an opportunity, to deſire the doctor to call upon him, as ſoon as he could leave the patient. In about a quarter of an hour, the doctor came into the room, and gave a ſhocking account of the lady's condition, but hoped that, with great care, attendance, and quiet, ſhe might recover. Darking then, began to enquire after the lady's family, name, and condition, but all that he could learn of the doctor was, that he had waited upon her mother, who had been dead ſome years.

That both mother, and daughter, went by the name of Brandon, and that, by what he could judge, the young lady was a very conſiderable fortune.

Upon the doctor's departure, and promiſing to viſit her, at leaſt, once a day, till ſhe was recovered, Darking returned to her houſe, where he found the fire extinguiſhed, and that the neighbours had taken the beſt order they could with the furniture. The doctor was punctual in his viſits, but it was three or four days before his patient recovered her ſenſes, ſo well as to comprehend the accident that had happened to her, or how ſhe came to the apartment where ſhe lay. Her youth, however, and a good conſtitution, aſſiſted her ſo far, that in about a fortnight, ſhe was able to ſit up, and to be ſo far dreſſed, as to receive a viſit from Darking, of whom ſhe had received very favourable impreſſions from the doctor, who, on this occaſion, acted as maſter of the ceremonies between them, and, to ſpare the lady's fatigue, very humorouſly re

repeated to Darking, all that would have been proper for the lady to have ſaid upon the occaſion.

But the good doctor might have ſaved himſelf the trouble, for Darking, by this time, had loſt all the faculties, both of body and ſoul, but thoſe of admiration, at the exquiſite beauty of the object before him. The doctor attributed his ſilence to his care of the lady's health, and the viſit not continuing very long, Darking has been ſince heard to acknowlege, that he did not know in what manner he got back to his own apartment.

The reader is not here to expect, that we are to dwell upon dry tedious ſcenes of courtſhip, which he will find in every tireſome novel. It is ſufficient to ſay, that upon the lady's perfect recovery, and return to her own houſe, Mr. Darking profeſſed himſelf her admirer, without the lady's ſhewing the leaſt ſymptom of averſion to his perſon or propoſals. Every day increaſed Darking's love of her per-

ſon, becauſe it added to his veneration for her virtues, his eſteem for her judgment, and his regard for that ſenſibility, which ſhe diſplayed on all occaſions, and upon all ſubjects. Notwithſtanding Darking's being deeply immerſed in love, which, on his part, was as diſintereſted, as it was ſtrong, yet he could not, in his own mind, account for Miſs Brandon's ſilence, as to her family and fortune. He had, to all appearance, reaſon to judge both to be conſiderable, but all he could learn was, that ſhe was under the power of a guardian, till ſhe arrived at the twenty-fifth year of her age, and that her mother, whoſe huſband had died in the Eaſt Indies, had left her all her eſtate, which being pretty large, ſhe was by her guardian, allowed five hundred pounds a year, till ſhe came of age.

Darking was not ſuch a novice as not to perceive, that his miſtreſs was under ſome kind of concern, and obliged ſometimes to heſitate, while ſhe was upon this ſub-

ſubject. But, having himſelf no occaſion for money, being diſtractedly fond of her perſon, and knowing he could diſoblige none of her friends by marrying her, he preſſed her to give her conſent, and to fix the happy minute: but ſhe inſiſted upon firſt acquainting her guardian, who, ſhe ſaid, lived at a conſiderable diſtance, and was then confined by the gout. Darking offered himſelf to be the carrier of the letter, but ſhe declined that, with ſome ſhew of confuſion, and that being poſt night, ſhe wrote to her guardian a long letter, giving a minute account of Mr. Cranwell's (for Darking now went by his father's name) courtſhip, circumſtances, and expectances in life. In about ten days, a letter, intirely to her ſatisfaction, approving of the match, came from her guardian, who ſaid, he had informed himſelf of Mr. Cranwell's circumſtances and character, and in the ſame letter, incloſed a bill of one thouſand pounds, payable by the bank of England, for her immediate uſe.

Darking underſtood all this with raptures, and though he had the moſt profound regard for his mother and father-in-law, yet ſo violent were his paſſion, and his impatience, that he reſolved to take them at their words, and by pleaſing himſelf in the choice of a wife, to leave as little as poſſible to fortune. In ſhort, the lady conſented to be his, and they were married in the preſence of two gentlemen, his friends, and a lady, who had for ſome years, been intimate with miſs Brandon. The marriage being over, Darking carried his bride directly to Mr. Morgan's houſe, where upon preſenting her upon her knees, his mother and father-in-law, knew ſhe was his wife. They had ſuſpected ſomewhat, and that he was ingaged in courtſhip by his frequent abſence, and his late alteration of manners; and above all by his providing and furniſhing a very noble houſe in town. But both of them ſeemed to be raviſhed at the ſight of the bride, who was moſt magnificently dreſſed, and appeared in all the bloom and charms, that eighteen years of age, a delicate,

cate, yet healthful complexion, an advantageous ſtature, the moſt regular ſett of features ever ſeen, the fineſt hair, and the moſt harmonious ſhape, could communicate.

The fondneſs and friendſhip of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan, for their daughter, improved every moment they converſed with her; and having lived in ſweet ſociety for ſome weeks, Mrs. Cranwell (for ſo we ſhall call Darking's wife) received a letter from her guardian, importing, that he had ſome matters of great conſequence to impart to her in his own perſon, but that not being well enough as yet to ſtir abroad, he had prevailed with his friend the miniſter of the pariſh, to ſet out next week with his compliments to her and her huſband, charging her to ſend him a particular account, in the mean time, how ſhe liked her new ſtate of life.

The day of the parſon's arrival being fixed in the letter, every thing was prepared for his reception: and Darking thought it prudent to leave his wife and

him together by themſelves, for an hour or two before dinner, which being ſerved up, Mr. Darking made his appearance, and was introduced to the doctor. All the company being ſeated, the parſon, during the time of dinner, ſtared ſo hard at Mr. Darking, that the latter could not look him in the face. Dinner was ſcarcely ended, when the parſon bluntly aſked Mr. Darking, whether he had not once gone by that name. The queſtion ſurprized and ſtartled Darking, who then ſtaring him in the face, recollected his features, and taking him warmly by the hand, aſked him, how all friends in the country were. The doctor anſwered this civility with great coldneſs, and inſtead of returning it, he aſked leave to ſpeak with Mrs. Cranwell by herſelf in a ſeparate room, where no one could overhear.

This gave no ſurprize to the company, who imagined, that the doctor had ſome ſecret commiſſion to deliver to her from her guardian. But while they were in expecta-

expectation of their return, they were alarmed by an outcry in the family, which came from the room where the doctor and the lady were, into which they immediately ruſhed, but found poor Mrs. Cranwell lying extended and ſenſeleſs on the floor.

Darking looking upon the parſon with eyes of ſilent aſtoniſhment and horror, and running to his wife, he endeavoured, but in vain, to bring her to life; while Mr. Jermy, for ſo the parſon was named, ſeeing how matters went, took advantage of the confuſion and concern the company was in, and fairly ſtole off. At laſt, however, by the help of cold water thrown in her face, fumigations, and other applications of the ſame kind, Mrs. Cranwell recovered her ſenſes; but how was her huſband ſurprized, when in raptures at her recovery, he was about to claſp her in his arms, ſhe puſhed him violently from her, and diſſolved in a flood of tears. All ſhe could pronounce, was a deſire to be carried to her apartment, and to be

left

left alone to her ſorrows. Her huſband again tenderly endeavoured to preſs her to his boſom, but ſhe again avoided him, with ſuch looks of grief and deteſtation, as filled him with terror and amazement.

Being carried to her apartment, ſhe ſo earneſtly requeſted to be left alone, at leaſt for ſome time, that all the company retired, ſome of them not without violent ſuſpicions, that her brain was touched. As to Darking, he would inſtantly have found out the fatal parſon, and have forced him to declare the cauſe of this unhappy cataſtrophe; but he knew not where to find him, and he was beſides, ſo overwhelmed with grief, care, and concern, that he could not tear himſelf, though but for a moment, from the houſe, where all his hopes, and all his joys were now buried from his ſight. He threw himſelf upon the couch, in a room adjoining to that where his wife was, and could ſometimes hear her expreſſions of grief ſo diſtinctly, that he was tempted to have ruſh-

ed

ed in, and diſregardful of all conſequences, never to leave her till ſhe ſhould diſcloſe the mournful cauſe of their ſeparation. But then the pathetic earneſt manner in which ſhe had requeſted to be left alone, as being the only means of reſtoring her ſoul to tranquility, was preſent to his imagination; and before he could form a reſolution, the expreſſions of her agonies were ſilent, and continued ſo till about nine in the evening.

At that hour, Mrs. Cranwell rung her bell, and her huſband being nearer to her room, than any of her ſervants were, ruſhed into it, with looks that teſtified both tranſport and anxiety. But Mrs. Cranwell, no ſooner ſaw him enter the room, than riſing haſtily from her bed, ſhe fell at his feet, embraced his knees, and in the moſt touching manner, begged him to retire. He ſwore he would not till he knew the reaſon. 'Speak,' continued he, in a tone of deſpair and fury, 'have I wrong'd your bed, have I 'wrong'd your perſon; have I ever be-

'tray'd a look, or dropt a word, that 'could give you uneaſineſs.' —— 'No,' interrupted ſhe, 'my dear, my life, my 'love, — my —,' but here her voice failed her; paleneſs took poſſeſſion of her face, and trembling of her perſon — all he could hear her ſay, with a faultering accent, was, *leave me — leave me* —, yet ſtill ſhe clung to his knees, and bathed his hands with her tears, which now flowed ſo faſt, that they gave her ſome relief. — 'Alas! ſaid ſhe, we muſt part, — we 'muſt part for ever, — but oh! if in 'this bitter moment of miſery, it will be 'any relief to your pains; know that you 'are innocent of the cauſe — and ſo am 'I, — the afflicting hand of fate is up-'on us. — If you love my peace of ſoul 'and body, you will enquire no farther, '— if you mean not to drive me to diſ-'traction, preſs me not to tell the cauſe 'of our ſeparation, — Thanks to heaven, 'I ſtill retain my ſenſes, let me employ 'them in making my peace with God, 'yet, oh my God, thou knoweſt I am 'innocent.'

Had

Had not the manner in which ſhe pronounced thoſe words been ſo movingly ſenſible as it was, Darking muſt have thought her mad. He was going to reply, when ſhe ſtarting to her feet, conjured him to ſend for Mrs. Morgan, and, to her, ſhe would reveal the fatal ſecret, if he would ſwear to be directed by her in all his future conduct towards his unhappy wife, and — here ſhe ſeem'd to be again almoſt choaked with a riſing accent, and had not her huſband caught her in his arms, and gently laid her upon the bed, ſhe muſt have again fallen to the ground. At this inſtant her maid came into the room, and Darking, recommending to her the care of her miſtreſs, haſtily left the room, and ran in perſon to his mother's houſe, which was in the neighbourhood, not chuſing to truſt the meſſage to a ſervant.

His mother was terrified at the ſymptoms of deſpair and grief that were painted upon his countenance, when he enter'd the room, where only ſhe and Mr. Morgan

gan were. He gave no time to aſk queſtions, but bade her go to the aſſiſtance of his wife, who was in the laſt extremity. By good luck the chariot, which was to carry Mr. and Mrs. Morgan to ſupper at a friend's houſe, was at the door, and Mrs. Morgan, without ſaying a word, went into it, to her ſon's houſe, leaving him along with her huſband.

It was lucky for Darking that he had ſenſe and recollection enough, to ſtay with ſo able and ſo affectionate a counſellor, as Mr. Morgan proved to be upon this occaſion. Inſtead of plying his ſon-in-law with moral maxims, and leſſons of patience, he expreſſed ſo much concern and grief at the condition he ſaw him in, that the other thought he wanted conſolation as much as himſelf. This had the effect that Morgan deſired; and after ſending his excuſe to the company he was to ſup with, he found means to open Darking's heart, ſo that he gave him a circumſtantial account of all that had paſt, from the time the parſon had taken his wife

wife to the ſeparate room. Mr. Morgan, with all his philoſophy and knowledge, was ſtartled at the relation, and owned, he could account for no part of it, but adviſed his ſon in-law to lodge with him that night, and wait the reſult of what the morning might produce. By this time, a ſervant came to Mr. Morgan from his wife, with a written note, to inform him, that ſhe could not be at home that night, and deſiring him, by all means to keep her ſon till ſhe could ſee them both. Mr. Morgan, to give Darking no ſuſpicion, or uneaſineſs, immediately communicated to him the note, and after ſome farther converſation, both of them concluded to make themſelves as eaſy as they could, and wait patiently for the event. In ſhort, Mr. Morgan's converſation had ſo ſtrong an effect upon Darking, that he felt a kind of a ray of hope break into his ſorrows; and the other perceiving that, kept him up till near three in the morning, when each went to his apartment.

It cannot be ſuppoſed, that Darking enjoyed much ſleep, but he was compoſed enough through the converſation he had with Mr. Morgan, to remain without any violent agitation of ſpirit till about eight in the morning, when he aroſe and found Mr. Morgan waiting for him in the parlour. Soon after Mrs. Morgan arrived, but with a countenance ſo altered, that it ſtruck her ſon with deſpair, and her huſband with anxiety. Both of them were afraid to aſk her queſtions, and their terror was encreaſed, when they ſaw her eyes ſtanding in tears, upon looking her ſon in the face.

He could ſtand it no longer, but, in a diſtracted manner, he aſked her, how ſhe had left his wife, and the reaſon why ſhe had forced him to forſake his own houſe. 'My dear ſon, ſaid ſhe, have 'patience; urge me not for any anſwer 'before a day or two have paſt; but in 'the mean while, it is improper for you 'to ſee —— my daughter-in-law.' She ſpoke thoſe laſt words with ſo myſterious

an

an air, that Darking could no longer forbear ſaying, —— 'Your daughter in-law, 'madam! ſhe is my wife, my dear, my 'adorable wife; that is a more tender tye 'than even that of a parent; — you have 'no right, madam, to preſcribe the mea-'ſures I am to take with her.' —— Mrs. Morgan anſwered him only by a look of deep concern, and a tear that ſilently ſtole down her cheek, which being obſerved by her huſband, redoubled his amazement. As to Darking, he ſoon recovered himſelf, and melting into filial affection, he ſnatched one of her hands, and fondly preſſing it between his own, aſked her pardon for what had too haſtily eſcaped his lips; but hoped ſhe would be ſo good as to eaſe his tortured mind, and give him at leaſt a hint of the reaſon, that rendered him the moſt miſerable of mankind.

'I cannot, my dear ſon, ſaid ſhe; the 'thing is of too tremendous a nature to 'mention, before all poſſibility of a miſ-'take is removed, which muſt be in a 'day or two; and nothing but the good

'ſenſe

'ſenſe of your wife, could have prevent-
'ed her making you as miſerable as ſhe
'is herſelf upon this occaſion.' Here Mr. Morgan interpoſed, and repreſented, that the time preſcribed for clearing up the affair was ſo ſhort, that he muſt ſubmit. 'Mean while, continued he, what
'do you think of an excurſion for a day
'or two into the country. I have ſeen
'very little of it ſince my return; I am
'ſure ſuch a jaunt at this unaccountable
'time, can be no violation of either de-
'cency or duty in you.' Darking, at firſt, declined this propoſal, but, recollecting himſelf, he ſaid, that there was a friend he wanted of all things in the world to ſee, yet that friendſhip was not his principal motive, but that he was the patron, and lived in the neighbourhood, of that curſed parſon, who, apparently, had given riſe to all the tortures which had befallen him, and that if they ſet out inſtantly, they could reach his friend's houſe in the forenoon. Mr. Morgan, far from having any objection to this propoſal, without anſwering him, ordered his

equi-

equipage to be immediately got ready, and in two hours after, they ſet out in a coach and ſix upon their journey.

While they were upon the road, Darking acquainted his father-in-law, that the gentleman he was going to viſit was Mr. Worthland, whom he had ſeen but once ſince he came to England, and having been ſeparated by buſineſs, Worthland's earneſt requeſt had made him promiſe to viſit him in the country; which not, to mention the parſon, was inducement enough for him to comply.

Arriving at Worthland's preciſely by the time predicted; they were received by him with all the demonſtrations of welcome, that friendſhip can inſpire; but he was troubled to ſee the ſettled grief that appeared upon Darking's countenance. He could not help mentioning it with ſenſible marks of concern, and offering him his ſervice to the utmoſt of his power; telling Darking, at the ſame time, that his tyrannical father, ſince he ſaw him laſt,

laſt, was now dead, and had left him in full poſſeſſion of his fortune. Darking thanked him for his friendſhip, but told him, all the favour he could do him, was to go immediately along with him to Mr. Jermy the parſon's houſe, in order to be preſent at clearing up a matter that had broken his peace, and if the clearing of it was longer delayed, would finiſh his life. He told Mr. Worthland, at the ſame time, that he choſe to give him that trouble, becauſe he knew the doctor's dependence was chiefly upon his family, and that his preſence and authority would be of ſervice in the matter.

As the parſonage houſe lay at the bottom of Mr. Worthland's garden, the propoſal was immediately complied with; but what was their ſurprize, when entering into the parſon's parlour, they there found Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Cranwell, who had come in a poſt chaiſe, and the parſon ſtamping about the room, raving againſt rank *inceſt*, and repeating, *ſhe was too good a woman to impoſe upon a man of*

ny cloth. Their ſurprize was encreaſed when they ſaw Mr. Worthland run up to Mrs. Cranwell, and taking her in his arms, embrace her with even tears of affection, and aſking where was her huſband? 'Huſband,' interrupts the parſon, 'you 'ought to ſay her father, — there he 'ſtands,' pointing to Darking. 'Hold 'thy peace, thou buſy, credulous, hot-'headed fool; if Mr. Darking and Mr. 'Cranwell are the ſame, I ſuſpect thy 'meddling brain has raiſed a flame that 'I alone can extinguiſh.' 'Oh! take me '— take me, from the rack, Sir, I con-'jure you, ſays Mrs. Cranwell, for there 'ſtands my —.' 'Your huſband, inter-'rupts Worthland, and here ſtands your 'father. Yes,' continues he again, tenderly embracing her, 'I avow it in the 'preſence of heaven, angels, and men, 'that thou art my own, my only, child.' Mrs. Cranwell then threw herſelf upon her knees, and by turns, embraced his, and thoſe of her dear huſband, whom Worthland held in his arms. The latter entreated them all to be ſeated, which

they were, after introducing to his knowledge, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan.

"I ſee wonder and impatience, ſays Worthland, painted on every face, and where there is impatience, there muſt be pain; and to reſtore all parties to a ſituation of mind, that is fitted to reliſh the pleaſure which this meeting ought to give us, I ſhall, in a very few words, clear up the myſtery, that ſeems to have given you all ſo much diſturbance, and I ſhall appeal for the truth of all I ſhall ſay to Jermy himſelf, through whoſe imprudence, all your uneaſineſſes have happened."

"You know, Tom, how ſeverely, nay, how tyrannically I was always treated by my father; and my mother, one of the beſt of women, was not exempted from her ſhare of diſtreſs, through his peeviſh paſſionate temper. You may remember Miſs Lucy Brandon. She came into our family, as a companion to my eldeſt ſiſter, about a month before you went to ſea. She was young, beautiful, and virtuous; I loved

I loved her to diſtraction, and upon a ſolemn promiſe of marriage (which I afterwards performed) ſhe reſigned herſelf to my arms, and became the mother of your wife, before my father's vigilance and ſtrictneſs over me could give me an opportunity of being married. During her pregnancy, my ſiſter, an envious captious wretch, obſerved it, and was ſpiteful enough to mention it to my father, whoſe darling ſhe was. My father, ever jealous of my conduct, ſpoke of it to my mother, and in ſuch terms, as plainly enough ſhewed, he was reſolved to diſinherit me, ſhould he find it to be true."

"My mother, who loved me tenderly, but had loſt all power over my father's affections, knew, that to ſeem to take my part, might ruin me, and applied to this wrong-headed prieſt (Mr. Jermy, you may contradict me, when I am out) who had a great influence with my father, to divert the ſtorm that threatned me. I cannot, even now, approve of the means ſhe employ'd, though they were ſucceſsful. She

pretended, that she had got the secret out of Lucy, and that you, Tom, was the father of the child. Your going abroad at the time, countenanced the opinion; and my father, through Mr. Jermy's interceſſion, for which I have always endeavoured to be grateful to him, believed me innocent. I own, I did not, till after your wife was born, know of the means that had been employed to impoſe upon him; but I perceive, Mr. Jermy continued, till now, under the ſame miſtake, and has given you a great deal of trouble."

"Lucy had a brother in the Eaſt India company's ſervice, who was reckoned rich, and ſhe had ſubſiſted upon his remittances, which were uncertain and precarious. My mother talked both to her and me about her condition, and neither of us offered to diſſemble what had happened between us. A lodging was provided for my dear Lucy in London, where ſhe lay in of your wife; I took every opportunity I could, to evade my father's vigilance,

gilance, which was no eaſy matter, and I came to town, where we were married."

"My father, who was full of whims and inconſiſtencies, luckily taking a fancy that I ought to ſtudy the law, in order to know how to manage my own eſtate, ſent me to the Temple, and then I had often opportunities of enjoying my Lucy's company; but ſtill our marriage was kept a profound ſecret, to all but to thoſe who were preſent, and to my mother, with whom I ventured to truſt it. About a year after Mrs. Cranwell's birth, my wife became, in her own right, poſſeſſed of thirty thouſand pounds, which was punctually remitted to her from the Eaſt Indies, where her brother, who had left her his heir and executrix, had died. Notwithſtanding this great acceſſion of fortune, neither my mother, nor I, thought proper to truſt my father with the ſecret of our marriage. Three years after, your dear mother died, and left me the moſt inconſolable of mankind; you my dear, went by her name; and I have inviolably preſerved every

every ſhilling of your fortune, but what was laid out in your education and ſubſiſtence, and I believe, at preſent, you may bring to Mr. Cranwell forty thouſand pounds."

"My mother was ſo terrified at my father's humours, which ſometimes carried him to extreme violences, that ſhe made me promiſe, in the moſt ſolemn manner, not to diſcloſe the ſecrets of your parentage and my marriage, till after his death. I therefore aſſumed only the name and authority of a guardian, which, deſtitute of all relations as you was, gave me all the power of a parent. About ten days before my father's death, I received your letter concerning Mr. Cranwell, whom I little ſuſpected to be my old friend Tom, but not being able to leave my father, I ſent it to a truſty friend in London, upon whoſe judgment and experience in life, as well as veracity, I could rely, who returned me ſuch an account of Mr. Cranwell's perſon and circumſtances, as made

me

me immediately give my consent to the match."

"You know, my dear girl, how I have behaved to you as a guardian, and that, notwithstanding my promise to my mother, I told you that your father, though reported to be dead in the East-Indies, was still alive; but this I told you under the seal of sworn secrecy, which you have ever observed, though I have often seen the confusion the knowledge of it has thrown you into."

The reader may easily supply in his own imagination, all that followed; all was rapture and joy, but Mr. Jermy, whose officiousness had thrown them into so much confusion. He owned, that he had no other grounds for what he had imparted to Mrs. Cranwell, but what he had heard from the old lady; he gravely observed, that people never ought to tell an untruth upon any account, and that he thought the trial they had met with, was a just judgment upon the young couple on that account,

account, and for this, he quoted the ſecond commandment.

They adjourned to Mr. Worthland's from the parſon's houſe, whom, notwithſtanding all that had happened, Mr. Worthland invited to go along with them, and where the old lady, who was ſtill alive, confirmed all her ſon had told them. The company remained for ten days with the utmoſt joy, unanimity, and ſatisfaction on all hands, and Mr. Worthland was then well enough recovered of his gout, to attend them to London; where Mrs. Cranwell is now the mother of two fine boys, her huſband the happieſt of mankind, and Mr. and Mrs. Morgan the beſt of parents.

FINIS.